

Sheikh dies with wife and baby as Israelis avenge murder of soldiers

Hezbollah chief killed in gunship raid on car

FROM ALI JABER IN BEIRUT
AND RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

SHEIKH Abbas Mousawi, the most senior Hezbollah leader, was killed yesterday when Israeli helicopter gunships blasted his motorcade in southern Lebanon.

The sheikh's wife, infant son and at least five bodyguards also died when his bullet-proof Mercedes was destroyed by seven guided missiles fired on a seven-car convoy passing through Tashra, 22 miles southeast of Beirut.

The convoy was made up of Range-Rovers and a Mercedes car that was carrying Sheikh Mousawi, aged 39, back to his base in Beirut from a fundamentalist rally in the village of Jibchiet, 50 miles further south.

The attack came as the culmination of a series of Israeli air raids to avenge the killing of three Israeli soldiers in an Arab assault on a military camp in northern Israel on Friday.

At dawn yesterday, the Israeli air force blasted Palestinian guerrilla bases in south Lebanon. At least four Lebanese civilians were killed and 10 Palestinians wounded in

raids which began when bombers hit the sprawling refugee camp at Ain el-Hilweh in the city of Sidon. Simultaneously, helicopters fired rockets at the Rashidiyeh refugee camp near the city of Tyre.

In the ambush on the sheikh, witnesses said that the Israeli helicopters followed the motorcade through the roads of south Lebanon before hitting each car with guided missiles. The helicopters then used heavy machine guns to comb the site and finish off on the survivors.

Hezbollah, in mourning its leader, said last night the ultimate target of the Israeli attack was the Islamic resistance against Israel and Hezbollah (the Party of God).

The scholar Abbas Mousawi travelled along with his wife and infant son and some bodyguards while serving God. His motorcade was the target of a specific Israeli Zionist aggression, that targeted through his person the Islamic resistance and Hezbollah nation, the Party of God's radio said.

Hezbollah officials said that Sheikh Mousawi usually used decoy cars to mislead assassins during his travels around Lebanon. It appears that the Israeli air force was tipped off on the motorcade.

An Israeli defence force spokesman said that the initial air attacks early yesterday were targeted at positions belonging to Fatah, the mainstream PLO movement loyal to Yasser Arafat, and the organisation accused of launching on Friday the most daring and bloody operation in four years against the Israeli army.

As the families of the three Israeli victims buried their dead, Israeli security forces were engaged in the second day of their manhunt for the Palestinian attackers, who are believed to have crossed into Israel on foot armed with knives, axes and a pitchfork.

According to the survivors, the Palestinians overpowered and killed the sentry on guard



Mourner: an Israeli soldier outside his tent at the camp where three of his comrades were stabbed to death



Victim: Sheikh Mousawi, killed in revenge attack

duty, then killed two more Israelis and wounded a fourth in hand to hand combat before escaping into the night with four captured automatic rifles. Two of the Israeli dead and the wounded soldier were all newly arrived Soviet Jews who had just started their basic training.

The fourth man, an Israeli army corporal, was the camp's commander. Most of the troops were on weekend leave.

The incident caused a political backlash in Israel. Tzahi Hanegbi, Likud rightwinger, demanded the death penalty for acts of terrorism. Dov Shilansky, Speaker of the Knesset, suggested that Israel reconsider its involvement in the peace talks, due to resume in Washington on February 24.

The question is likely to be raised again this week when the ruling Likud party and the main opposition Labour party are expected to elect their leaders for this summer's election, and the key issues of peace and security will again dominate the campaign. At yesterday's weekly

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Army's wounds, page 7

Tories face week of black Thursdays

BY ROBIN OAKLEY AND COLIN NARBROUGH

THE government is facing a bleak week of economic statistics as Labour seeks to intensify its efforts to destroy the Conservative reputation for economic competence. Last week's "Black Thursday" is to be followed by a dark grey Monday to Friday which will aid Labour's blitz, designed to destroy the benefits of any budget tax cuts before they are reached.

Government sources were yesterday forecasting good news from today's CBI survey of distributive trades, saying that the January figures would show retail sales up on a year ago, with motor trade reporting their best increase since July 1990. But the City and the Opposition will be sceptical the figures are compared with January 1991, when sales were depressed by the Gulf war.

The CBI figures will be followed by disclosure tomorrow of the government's increased borrowing needs and retail sales data on Wednesday showing little improvement. On Thursday, official figures will confirm that output fell last year by around 2.5 per cent, the worst one-year drop since the 1930s. Ministers insisted that there would be better news to come from forward-looking statistics and that the economy was "poised for recovery".

The series of economic shocks is beginning to show through in the opinion polls. In a Harris poll of women for today's *Daily Express*, conducted last Thursday and Friday, Labour had a five-point lead. At the last election, the

Conservatives did better among women voters than among men.

Two earlier polls, one by Harris for the *Observer* and the other an ICM poll for the *Sunday Express*, put the Tories neck and neck. The Harris poll, conducted last Wednesday and Thursday, put support at Labour 40 per cent, Conservatives 39 and Liberal Democrats 15. The ICM poll, with fieldwork on Friday, put Conservatives at 40, Labour 39 and Liberal Democrats 16. Labour were last night hailing the results as a swifter-than-expected public reaction to the latest unemployment figures, mortgage repossessions and poor company results.

Labour will stage another Commons debate on the recession on Wednesday. Neil Kinnock and his colleagues, aware that public favour for their stance on health and education is not enough to win an election, have switched their strategy to concentrating on the government's economic record.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, sought meanwhile to counter the gloom by issuing figures showing that there was plenty of money to be spent if people chose to spend it.

Peter Lilley, trade secretary, said that, over the past 10 years, output had gone up by a quarter, investment by a

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Bush stumbles at start line

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

THE New Hampshire primary reached a riveting climax at the weekend with President Bush campaigning furiously to ward off Patrick Buchanan's conservative challenge and Paul Tsongas surging ahead in an embattled Bill Clinton in the Democratic race.

With the nation's crucial first primary tomorrow, two polls yesterday showed Mr Bush leading Mr Buchanan by 54 to 26 per cent and by 60 to 33.

Neither suggested Mr Bush would achieve a victory sufficient to kill off his opponent's candidacy, and the White House worry is that angry Republicans who have embraced Mr Buchanan are more likely to vote than those

who support Mr Bush more from duty than conviction. Mr Bush, claiming that with Gulf and Cold War victories he had "turned this world around", produced again his cry, "You go to the polls not to register a protest vote, but to elect a president of the United States."

Mr Buchanan, exploiting a widespread perception of Mr Bush as the man who reneged on his 1988 "No New Taxes" pledge, claimed the president's economic recovery package omits the \$500-per-child tax exemption he promised the middle-classes in his State of the Union speech.

After rousing final rallies, the five Democratic candidates prepared for a live television debate last night that

promised to seal their fates. The same polls showed Mr Tsongas leading Mr Clinton by 32 to 21 per cent and by 41 to 20, with Tom Harkin, Bob Kerrey and Jerry Brown barely in double digits.

The long-shot, no-frills candidacy of Mr Tsongas, the former senator from neighbouring Massachusetts, has suddenly taken off as New Hampshire's Democrats have warmed to his transparent political and personal honesty. But in Washington he is still considered unelectable nationally and there is increasing pressure on big-name Democrats to enter the race should he win tomorrow.

Hollywood help, page 11

Finders can keep their goldfinger fortunes

BY ALAN HAMILTON

ON THE scale of serendipity, having a complete stranger toss fistfuls of gold coins over your garden wall ranks close to having the man from Littlewoods ring your doorbell. On the scale of improbability, a seven-figure win on the pools is marginally the likelier.

Last September an anonymous benefactor in an overcoat and trilby hat strolled around Portsmouth casting handfuls of sovereigns, doubloons, kruggerands and other glistening coinage apparently willy-nilly into suburban gardens. Today those 40 householders honest enough to have handed in their peculiar windfalls have been invited to the local police station to be told they may keep them.

Residents who scabbled in the shrubbery at the sight of the golden rain recovered amounts between £200 and £10,000. Mrs Irene Collins, aged 33,

whose garden yielded the largest amount, said yesterday on learning that she could keep her find that, unlike the stock response of pools millionaires, it would certainly change her life. She was recently made redundant from her job at a defence factory, and could now afford to retrain at a local college, as well as installing a new kitchen and bathroom.

Thanks to an eyewitness who saw the benefactor at work, police believe they have discovered the identity of the man who came to be known as "Goldfinger" at the time of his strangely charitable deeds. He is thought to be a retired merchant seaman in his 80s who lives in the area, a widower with no family. Detective Sergeant Keith Davis of Portsmouth police said yesterday they had interviewed the man they were convinced was responsible, were satisfied that the money had not been stolen, and that he had given it away of his own free

will. "The only link we can find is that the ladies of the houses where the coins were found are all attractive. He is a lovely old gentleman, who for some reason has decided to get rid of this money — although he won't admit it. Although he did tell us he had given coins away in the past."

Using their skill, judgment and experience, the police have come to the conclusion that, if a total of £20,000 was handed in by honest citizens, the old seadog probably cast at least £40,000 around the Portsmouth shrubbery.

They have satisfied themselves that Goldfinger does not want the money back. But just in case he ever changes his mind, all today's claimants will be asked to sign an indemnity absolving the Portsmouth police from any responsibility. The old seadog, meanwhile, has put a cross in the box marked "no publicity", and his identity remains a secret. Just as well, for his own sake.



Health firms hit by false claims

False claims to private health insurers include £53,000 for a heart-lung transplant that never took place, writes Jeremy Lawrence

Private health insurance companies have been forced to tighten their security procedures after spectacular cases of fraud. Patients have submitted claims for treatment that never took place and have received cheques for thousands of pounds.

In one case, a nurse submitted a false claim for £53,000 for a heart-lung transplant, naming Magdi Yacoub as the surgeon. After the sum had been paid, a clerk noticed an irregularity on the claim form, contacted Mr Yacoub — now Sir Magdi — and discovered that he had never heard of the patient. Further checks revealed that the nurse had made earlier claims for two valve replacements, a hysterectomy and treatment for typhoid and pleurisy, worth in total a further £3,000 to £4,000.

By the time the police were told, the nurse had fled to her home in Trinidad with the money. Her GP, who signed the forms, was charged with deception but cleared after he said that, because she was a nurse, he had believed her and had not thought it necessary to examine her.

In another case, a family of four from Lancashire claimed for weekly physiotherapy treatments over three years, netting £90,000. The money was initially used to prop up an ailing family business but later became part of the family's regular income. The fraud was discovered after a clerk noticed that the number of claims had risen to five hundreds. The claims recording system was programmed to return to zero after 99, so patients making large numbers of claims were missed. Members of the family were later prosecuted.

Private health insurance companies pay out £4 million a day in claims, about 1 per cent of which are estimated to be fraudulent. Executives are anxious that this figure does not rise to the American level, estimated at between 3 and 6 per cent. Most bills are therefore settled directly with the hospital or specialist, but

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TODAY IN THE TIMES

AMERICA'S DR FEELGOOD



For Francis Fukuyama history ends on Main Street, USA
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WINDY CITY MESMERIST



John Malkovich adds to his reputation
Life & Times
Page 3

GETTING THE GOAT



Britain and Pakistan cross horns over a Himalayan goat
Page 2

Author and poet die

Angela Carter, the novelist and short story writer, whose inspiration lay in the world of dream and fairy tales, died yesterday aged 51. The 1984 film, *The Company of Wolves*, is based on one of her stories. The poet and novelist George MacBeth, a former BBC radio producer, also died yesterday, aged 60. Obituaries, page 15
Diary, page 12

Degree worry

Another sharp rise in the number of students awarded first-class degrees has revived concern that standards at universities may be slipping. Page 2

Croat pledge

An aide to President Tudjman of Croatia promised that abuses by Croats against Serbs would not be tolerated and offenders would be tried. Page 10

Touchy ruling

Irish referee Stephen Hilditch disclosed that it was Eion Doyle, the touch judge, who insisted on sending off a French prop forward in the England rugby match against France. Page 26, 30

FA Cup draw

Liverpool, joint FA Cup favourites, were drawn at home against Aston Villa in the quarter-finals — providing them can beat Ipswich Town in a fifth-round replay next week. Yesterday Ipswich held them to a 0-0 draw. Page 28, 30

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Tories and Labour remain neck and neck after weekend polls

LIKE any batch of polls, this weekend's have given an exaggerated impression of flux. The Gallup/Daily Telegraph poll put the Conservatives 2.5 points ahead, the Harris/Observer poll put Labour 1 point ahead, and the ICM/Sunday Express poll, conducted only after Thursday's gloomy economic news, restored the Conservatives to a 1 point lead.

Forget the headlines and hype. Sampling error alone explains these slight variations. In a standard poll of 1,000 to 1,500 respondents, estimates of Conservative and Labour support are subject to an error margin of plus or minus 3 percentage

Forget the headlines and hype that follow the opinion polls, says Ivor Crewe. The clear message is that the Conservatives and Labour have been at level pegging since the autumn party conferences

points. In the 32 polls conducted since October, Tory support has remained between 38 and 42 per cent in all but one and Labour support between 37 and 43 per cent in all but three.

The clear message is that the Conservatives and Labour have been level pegging at 40 per cent each since the autumn conferences and the verdict of the weekend's polls

is "no change". The only change of substance is the modest advance of the Liberal Democrats, from 14 per cent last month to 16 per cent so far this month. They probably benefited from the publicity surrounding Paddy Ashdown's admission of an affair.

Their improved vote has coincided with a sharper fall in the Conservative than Lab-

our vote, contrary to the over-touted idea that they tend to advance at the expense of Labour. They may be picking up the votes of Conservatives disillusioned by the continuing recession.

Twenty-four of the 32 polls since October point to a hung parliament. On this month's polls, assuming a national uniform swing, the election result would be Conservative 309, Labour 305, Liberal Democrats 14, Nationalists 6, Irish Unionists 13, Other Irish 4: an almost complete stalemate in which neither main party could form a government alone or with any one minor party. Gerald Kaufman's assertion yester-

day that "contrary to the polls, Labour is well ahead" was made without evidence or explanation. For various technical reasons — the non-registration of poll-tax avoiders, the under-polling of the very elderly, the Conservative bias among respondents refusing to declare their vote intention, and the expatriate vote — the polls are probably slightly underestimating Conservative support.

Some commentators have noted that Gallup polls tend to place Labour support lower — and Liberal Democrat support higher — than other polls, probably because Gallup asks the vote intention question after asking respon-

Month	No of polls	Cons maj	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Other
Nov	9	-1.3	40.1	41.3	14.8	3.8
Dec	5	-2.1	40.0	42.1	13.4	4.5
Jan	12	0.5	41.0	40.5	14.3	4.2
Feb*	6	-0.4	39.3	39.8	16.1	4.8

* to date

dents to assess the three party leaders. It is true that if Gallup is excluded from the polls of polls, Labour has been consistently ahead, albeit by tiny margins. However, Gallup's sequence of questions might reflect campaign conditions more realis-

tically than the other polls and thus produce the most accurate estimates. Moreover, NOP has tended to place Labour support higher than other polls, especially since last month, thus cancelling out the "Gallup effect". Conservative strategists

seem to assume that the government can pick up the vital extra 2 to 3 points during the campaign. However, the historical record is not encouraging: although governments usually recover before the campaign, no government since 1951 has improved its lead (or reduced the opposition's) once the campaign has begun.

The government's single remaining card for an April 9 election appears to be the Budget. How far the polls are already reflecting people's expectations of tax cuts is impossible to say. Ivor Crewe is professor of government at the University of Essex.

Lib Dems would freeze charge on prescriptions

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A FREEZE on prescription and dental charges will be presented by Paddy Ashdown today as a key plank of the Liberal Democrats' health policy, which is also expected to pledge an overhaul of medical training and reform of the "19th century consultant-led system".

The policy document, which will be launched by Mr Ashdown at St Thomas's Hospital, London, is likely to promise to reduce prescription charges over time, and to raise health spending annually in real terms to cover demographic growth. In addition, a Liberal Democrat government would appoint salaried GPs and replace the consultant system with teams of accredited specialists, who will go through a shorter training period.

The commercial internal market will be abolished, along with GP fundholding, but all GPs will have greater freedom to refer patients to the hospitals of their choice. No further hospitals would be allowed to become NHS trusts, but the report is understood to be deliberately vague on what would happen to the existing 57 self-governing hospitals. It is likely that they will retain many of their freedoms, although they will be technically taken back under their local health authority.

The report, parts of which have been leaked to *The Times*, will commit the Liberal Democrats to significant expenditure, rivaling that of the Labour party, which is expected to publish its own policy document to-

day. The Liberal Democrats have shied away from costing their pledges, despite having already promised to abolish charges for sight tests and dental checks, moves likely to cost about £150 million a year.

The party is the first to pledge a freeze on prescription charges, which are to rise by 35p to £3.75 on April 1, a near 20-fold increase since the Tories came into power in 1979. The new document will take the party into the uncharted territory of reducing all health charges and cutting a future Chancellor's annual income. An estimated £778 million will be raised this year from charges for prescriptions, dental treatment and hospital treatment for traffic accident victims.

The document will talk of a "gradual reduction over time" of all NHS levies, without setting a specific timetable or establishing minimum charges. It is also expected that prescription exemptions and reduced "season tickets" will be extended to a wider range of people.

It proposes to reduce the medical training period to bring Britain in line with other European countries, where doctors train for five to seven years, as opposed to the current 14. This would be done by creating a single training grade, where doctors would have a lower service commitment but a greater degree of supervision.

Once training was completed, doctors would be accredited as specialists and their names put on a specialist



Country retreat: Paddy Ashdown and Des Wilson with their wives, both called Jane, at Mr Wilson's home in Lincolnshire yesterday

register to which the public would have access. The document is not expected to spell out what would happen to existing consultants, or how much extra manpower would be needed.

The party's proposal for salaried GPs seeks to address unfair workloads and the lack of incentives in some areas. Under the present system, GPs' incomes are linked to list size and the number of clinics. Extra money can be earned through bonus payments linked to the number of cervical smears or immunisation procedures carried out.

Although inner city GPs and those working in deprived areas can get subsidies, they are at a considerable disadvantage, as many

of their patients are homeless or temporary residents. The Liberal Democrats would guarantee these GPs a regular income by giving them an annual salary unrelated to workload. The scheme, which has been introduced in one or two places by the government, is opposed by the British Medical Association, which argues that GPs would be stripped of work incentives, their autonomy, and their freedom to speak for their patients.

The document is also expected to include proposals to improve health promotion, boost health service pay, improve community health services and devolve management following the creation of regional parliaments.

Thatcher may back referendum

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

MARGARET Thatcher is said by friends to be thinking of voting in the Commons on Friday for a private member's bill to provide for a referendum on the Maastricht treaty on European union. Norman Tebbit, the former chairman of the Conservative party, is also expected to back the bill put forward by Richard Shepherd, a Tory backbencher.

Although the bill would have no chance of becoming law in the shortened parliament even if it were to win a second reading, significant

support, or star adherents to the cause, would embarrass the government.

The treaty was signed on Britain's behalf ten days ago by Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, and by Francis Maude, the financial secretary to the Treasury, but it requires ratification by national parliaments before coming into effect. Legislation will not go before the British parliament until after the general election.

Although Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, and Mrs Thatcher have

urged a referendum on the Maastricht deal the prime minister has insisted that there is no case for one.

Mrs Thatcher said in the Commons debate before the Maastricht summit: "Anyone who does not consider it [a referendum] has to explain how the voice of the people shall be heard."

Mr Shepherd argues that the ultimate authority for laws in some of the "most fundamental areas of national life" will pass away from the British people under the Maastricht treaties.

Massive task to dismantle weapons

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A BRITISH team of nuclear weapons experts sent to Russia to examine ways of helping to dismantle thousands of missiles has returned with graphic accounts of the scale of the problem.

Old warheads which have been separated from redundant missiles over the years have been stored but not dismantled. Britain's atomic weapons establishment at Aldermaston in Berkshire designs warheads so that they can be easily dismantled.

The British experts in Moscow were given the clear impression that this was not the case with Soviet-designed nuclear warheads; so there is probably a much bigger stockpile of old warheads than was thought.

There have already been alarming reports of the way many tactical nuclear systems have been stored. Last month a US team of experts, who visited four former Soviet republics, found thousands of tactical weapons insecurely stored.

The British experts, who have just returned, were officials from the defence ministry and the Aldermaston atomic weapons establishment. A Foreign Office official and a technical expert from British Nuclear Fuels also went. Their mission to Moscow was agreed after the meeting in London last month between John Major and Boris Yeltsin, the Russian president.

The British team of seven officials, led by the defence ministry's principal scientific adviser on nuclear matters, has now drawn up plans to help the Russians. Britain can offer advice on transporting nuclear weapons and reprocessing the nuclear fuel in the warheads. In spite of the changed political climate, the Russian authorities are not expected to invite British or American experts to help take apart the warheads.

If the Russian authorities agree, the British will work with the United States and other Western allies before embarking on the operation. The US senate has already earmarked \$500 million to help with dismantling.

The involvement of British Nuclear Fuels indicates that some of the surplus weapon-grade plutonium and uranium now stored in Russia may be reprocessed at the Cumbrian plant, although the former Soviet Union has its own reprocessing facilities.

Dublin offer

Ireland's new prime minister, Albert Reynolds, yesterday offered to have talks with Ulster unionist leaders. He said in an ITN interview that he could do business with the unionists "any time". Ivor Stanbrook, chairman of the Conservative backbench Northern Ireland committee, said the biggest contribution Dublin could make was to "renounce its claim of sovereignty" over Ulster.

GCSE appeal

Head teachers are appealing to the prime minister today not to reduce the amount of course-work that can count towards GCSE qualifications. The National Association of Head Teachers is supporting seven examining bodies, who fear there may be muddle in schools if the government presses ahead immediately with plans announced last November to limit course-work.

Dearer petrol

The price of a gallon of Esso four-star petrol will rise by 6.4p (1.4p a litre) from today. The move, which means a gallon of four-star will cost 26.8p (49.9p a litre), follows rises by Shell and Texaco announced on Friday.

MARKS AND SPENCER

PRODUCT RECALL

Marks and Spencer have identified that two St Michael wines produced in Italy do not meet our normal quality and safety specifications.

The wines involved are:

**MERLOT (RED)
PINOT GRIGIO (WHITE)
ALL YEARS/VINTAGES**

As a precaution stocks of these wines have been removed from display and returned to the manufacturer.

Customers who have purchased these wines are asked to return them to the Customer Services Desk at their local store where a full refund will be given.

NO OTHER ST MICHAEL WINES ARE INVOLVED IN THIS RECALL.

Goat puts UK on collision course

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A BRITISH proposal to increase protection for a Himalayan wild goat that is one of the world's most sought-after hunting trophies may lead to a dispute with Pakistan.

The Pakistani authorities are objecting to a British move to help the markhor, *Capra falconeri*, a Northwest Frontier mountain goat with spectacular spiral horns, which American big-game hunters pay large sums to shoot, and which is increasingly threatened.

At next month's conference in Japan of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, Britain will sponsor a resolution which would make the export of markhor trophy heads subject to much more rigorous conditions. In particular, nations allowing their import would have to satisfy themselves first that a proper management regime was in place to conserve the animal.

Pakistan has formally notified Britain that it will not support the proposal, which was labelled "absolutely asinine" by F. Alex Maddox, president of the Shikar-Safari International Foundation, which pays \$45,000 a year to the game department of Pakistan's Northwest Frontier province for the privilege of shooting two markhors a year.

"He is probably the most desired trophy of all big-



Hunters' prize: the threatened markhor

game hunters," said Mr Maddox, owner of a truck business in Memphis, Tennessee, who, in 1987 at the age of 60, personally shot the largest markhor ever taken. He maintains that the money his club has provided has enabled the animals to increase in Chitral, the hunting area they use, from 50 in 1978 to more than 600.

"Our programme has been a tremendous success," he said. "The money has provided guards, patrols, clothes and photographic equipment. There has not been a single animal poached in the area since 1984, and, as a result, a family of snow leopards has returned to feed off them."

However, general numbers of the animal are be-

lieved to be at critically low levels throughout its range, which centres on Pakistan but extends into Afghanistan and the former Soviet Union. European Community estimates consider that each of the three sub-species currently recognised in Pakistan has a population of roughly 400.

The United States is supporting the British proposal, which was made at the request of the convention's animal committee. British officials will discuss the matter with the Pakistani counterparts when the conference opens. The matter is regarded as sensitive, as Britain does not wish to be open to the charge of "cultural imperialism" in telling a Commonwealth country how to run its affairs.

Rise in first class degrees revives fear on standards

BY JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

ANOTHER sharp rise in the number of students awarded first class degrees has revived concern that standards may be slipping in universities.

The increase is even larger than last year's, when universities had to defend themselves against charges of devaluing the currency of the degree. One in 12 university undergraduates took a first.

University statistics published today show a 9 per cent increase in the proportion of firsts in 1989-90, a 22 per cent rise in four years. Polytechnics and colleges registered a similar rise. The proportion remains lower at polytechnics and colleges, but their number of firsts awarded by the Council for National Academic Awards rose 9 per cent.

Gareth Williams, of the London University Institute of education, said: "This is firmly established as a trend now. It is hard to believe that students are getting brighter when it was more difficult to get into higher education ten years ago. Probably teaching has improved, but the increase is still a bit embarrassing for universities when they are complaining about a squeeze on resources affecting quality."

"I very much doubt that there is any grand conspiracy, but market pressures may have come into it. Some universities might have thought that they were not awarding as many firsts as they might if they wanted a fair crack of the whip from the research councils."

Universities and polytechnics say that external examiners ensure standards are maintained. Universities are legally obliged to preserve the quality of their degrees.

The increase disguises substantial variations between universities. In the two universities in Northern Ireland, for example, fewer than 4 per cent of undergraduates were awarded firsts, compared with 21 per cent at Cambridge. Oxford had the next highest success rate, with 14 per cent, and at the bottom of the list St David's, Lampeter, awarded fewer than 2 per cent.

The greater incidence of firsts in mathematics and science subjects put several of the technological universities close behind Oxford, Bath, Aston, Salford and Loughborough all awarded firsts to more than 10 per cent of those taking finals in 1989-90. Attempts by some universities to achieve a more even balance between the subjects by awarding more firsts in the humanities and social sciences may be partly responsible for the overall increase.

The statistics, published by the Universities Funding Council, show income from research, and consultancy growing by more than £100 million in a year, but some universities still heavily in debt. At £752 million, income from research and consultancy has grown by 85 per cent in four years.

Seven universities had deficits on their recurrent budgets in 1989-90.

Lineker talks of suffering faced by sick baby son

By Bill Frost

GARY Lineker, the England football captain, yesterday spoke of the suffering his baby son George faces as he fights against a rare form of leukaemia.

Mr Lineker agreed to discuss the chemotherapy treatment four-month-old George is undergoing, in the hope of helping other children and parents in a similar position. He also appealed for more blood and bone marrow donors to come forward to help to save young lives.

"George is stable at the moment. To look at him, you wouldn't know he was ill. He is just starting the third course of treatment, which is a bit of a roller. It's very

toxic, very rough," he said. "For example, when we change George's nappy it is possible to be burned, so we have to wear gloves. If you're getting that sort of thing on the outside you can imagine what it does to the children on the inside. They get mouth ulcers and it takes the lining off their stomachs," he told BBC Radio 1.

The baby was admitted to Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children, central London, last November, suffering from myeloid leukaemia. Mr Lineker, aged 31, said he and his wife Michelle would not know for five years if the treatment has been successful.

"The doctors give the time limit as five years for the actual cure. They finish the treatment, which in George's case will take six to nine months, and you just hope it doesn't come back. There's always the risk of that."

He went on: "It is not easy talking publicly about the whole thing, but it's important. As parents in the public eye it gives us a chance to help, and I think it would be a shame to miss out on that. A way we can do it is by drawing attention to the things that can help the kids that are in similar situations to George's."

Mr Lineker appealed yesterday for more blood and bone marrow donors. "There's a lot of kids all around the country who need transplants or transfusions. People can help them without actually putting their hands



George Lineker soon after his birth

in their pockets in these hard times by donating blood or bone marrow.

"Could you imagine the thrill if one day they called you up and said you've got the chance to save a little kid's life and you did exactly that, you saved somebody's life by giving a bone marrow transplant? I don't think there could be anything better to give than that."

A spokeswoman for the haematology team at the Royal Free Hospital in northwest London welcomed Mr Lineker's decision to talk publicly about his son. "It is important to keep these things in the public eye."

Romanian adoption law tested

By Ray Clancy

A BRITISH couple who want to adopt a second Romanian orphan will arrive in Bucharest today, even though the authorities have postponed a new adoption system for the third time.

Deborah and Alan Fowler, of Hampton Gay, near Oxford, are meeting Romania's national adoption committee, in an attempt to be the first foreign couple to adopt since the Romanian government introduced a law last July that effectively banned orphans from going abroad. Under the law, the natural parents and grandparents of every orphan identified for adoption must be traced first to make sure that the child cannot go back to its natural family.

Many British families who began the adoption process before the law was introduced have found themselves unable to adopt a child they have already seen. Peter Thurnham, Conservative MP for Bolton Northeast, who has just returned from Romania, said yesterday that he has urged the authorities to speed up the process.

During a meeting with Cristina Fulga, the civil servant in charge of the adoption committee's British desk in Bucharest, he raised a number of cases where British couples have been prevented from adopting because of the legislation. "I urged them to give these cases priority and to make a start on re-opening the process as soon as possible," he said.

Mr Thurnham has now been told that it will be the end of April at the earliest before any adoption can go ahead. "I fear that Romanian orphans are going to be spending many more years in institutions," he said.

Passports lure US tourists

By Harvey Elliott, Travel Correspondent

BRITISH tourist officials have linked up with Virgin Atlantic to offer free passports to the 90 per cent of Americans who have never ventured abroad.

Only 25 million Americans, out of 250 million, have a passport and fewer than seven million of these came to Europe last year, one million fewer than in 1990. One deterrent is the cost of an American passport — \$55 (£30) for an adult and \$35 (£19) for children.

The decline in the number of Americans visiting Europe meant that, for the first time in living memory, the number of Europeans going to America — up by 7 per cent to 7.17 million — exceeded those travellers coming east-

wards. Virgin Atlantic, like all other airlines flying the North Atlantic, is struggling to fill seats. It believes that, by providing free passports, it will go some way towards overcoming the psychological block many Americans feel about going abroad.

The British Tourist Authority estimates that, in 1991, only 2,377,000 Americans visited Britain, compared with well over three million in 1990. They have, therefore, paid half the cost of the Virgin advertisements, which include special offer fares of £189 return between New York or Boston and London.

Travel from the United States to Europe is one of the most sensitive barometers of the world economy and, as



Survivors: Alec Pease, a former prisoner of war, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the fall of Singapore to Japan, aboard the shunting engine Singapore at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, Cambridgeshire, yesterday. The naval dockyard engine still bears bullet marks from its capture

Prisoners' art works preserved

By Tim Jones

A PAINTING of a scantily-clad fraulein which played its part in a mass breakout by German prisoners held in Britain during the second world war will be preserved for the nation.

Although some of her charms have faded, the unnamed beauty will remain on the wall of Hut 9 at the former Special Camp XI near Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, which is being demolished to make way for a £400,000 business park.

The lady was painted to distract guards from the entrance to a 60ft tunnel through which more than 70 prisoners escaped on the night of March 10, 1945. Although some reached Southampton, all were recaptured and returned to the camp, which held high-ranking officers, including Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt and Major-General Walter Dornberger, who was linked with the V2 rocket building programme.

More than 20 paintings in other huts will be removed with the help of the War Art Conservation Society before the buildings are demolished. Some may remain in South Wales, others could be exhibited in Germany.

Brewers fear new EC drink rules

By Peter Victor and John Young

BRITISH brewers, distillers and alcohol retailers are demanding a reform of excise duties to protect their market once European Community personal allowances are raised. They fear that rack-teers will be able to bring back large alcohol consignments from the Continent and undercut British prices.

EC officials are considering raising personal allowances on beer from 50 litres to 110 litres. As the table shows, excise duties are substantially higher in the United Kingdom than in any EC countries apart from Denmark and the Irish republic.

The Brewers' Society calculates that a couple using their full beer and wine allowance could make £330 profit between them on each trip abroad. "There is nothing to say people cannot bring in two to three times their allowance, as long as they say it's for personal consumption," the society says. "People abus-

ing the system could take trade away from local breweries and off licences.

"If people were coming in trying to sell this beer, they could have a competitive advantage. The 110-litre beer allowance could cause major problems for breweries and pubs in the South-East region. There must be some form of change in the excise duty to come into line with the rest of Europe."

Ian Dixon, production and distribution director at Shepherd Neame, in Kent, said corner shops could have a field day: "No one in our part of the world would need to sell British beer again."

In the case of wines and spirits the opportunities for profiteering are even greater, because of the smaller quantities and higher values involved. The EC has proposed that the allowances for returning travellers should be raised to 120 bottles of wine and a dozen bottles of spirits.

EXCISE DUTIES IN THE EC

	Wine 75cl 11.5% alc by vol £/bottle	Wine 75cl 18% alc by vol £/bottle	Spirits 70cl 40% alc by vol £/bottle	Beer pence/ pint
Belgium	0.18	0.34	2.94	7.6
Denmark	0.72	1.10	7.79	21
France	0.01	0.94	2.20	1.1
Germany	-	0.26	2.43	2.8
Greece	0.80	0.82	2.5	
Ireland	1.39	2.03	5.13	43.9
Italy	-	0.08	1.19	9
Luxembourg	0.08	0.23	1.78	2.4
Netherlands	0.19	0.35	2.69	8.2
Portugal	-	-	1.09	4
Spain	-	0.17	1.10	1.6
U.K.	0.90	1.56	5.31	30.1

Source: The Wine & Spirit Association and The Brewers' Society

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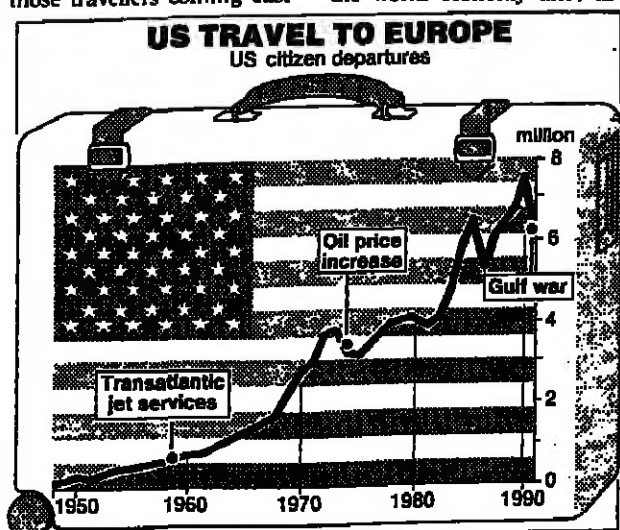
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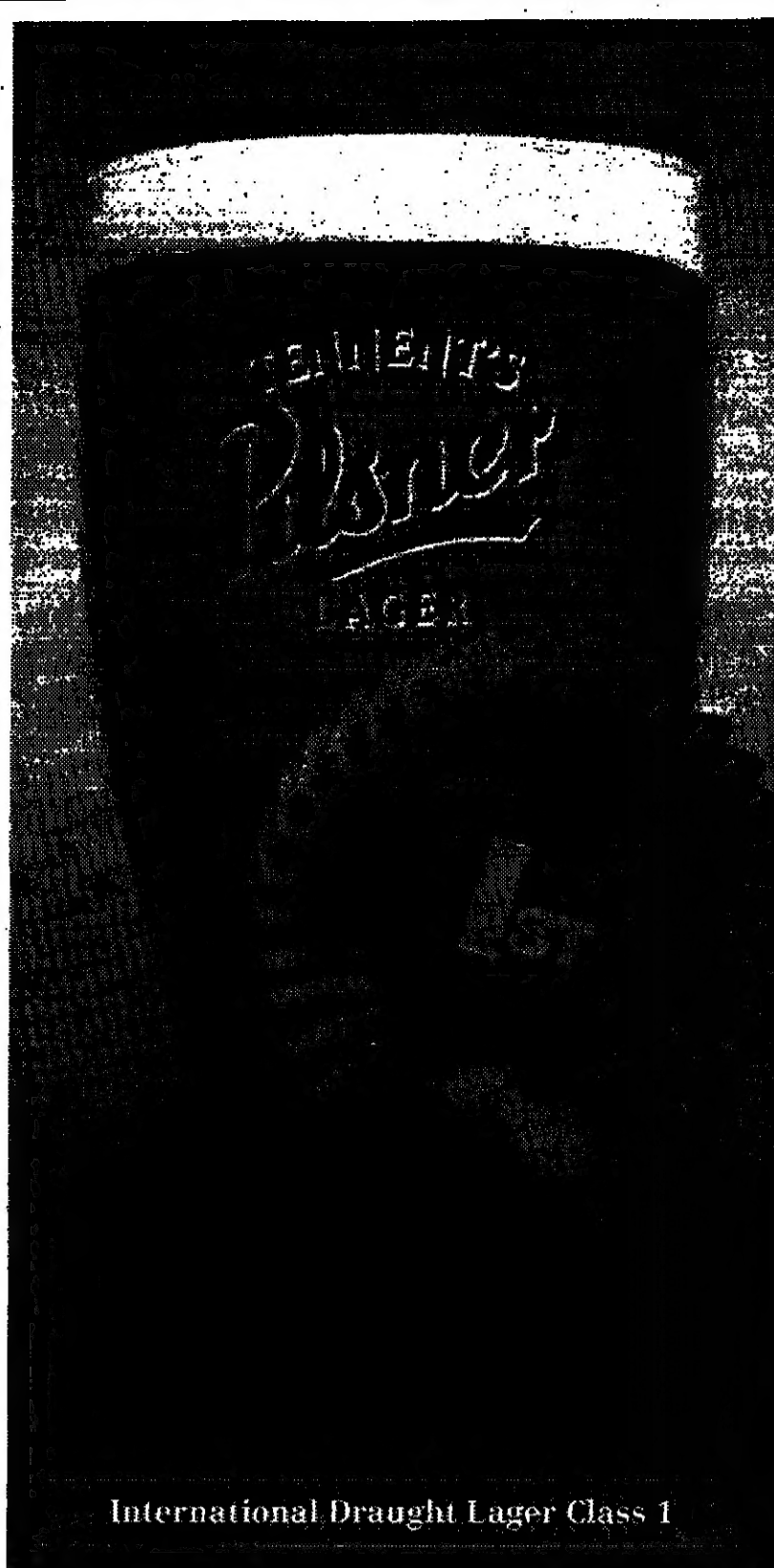
Secured loans and mortgages require a charge on your property. All loans subject to status and valuation. Loans not available to persons under 18. Written quotations available from Abbey National plc 0800 555 100. APR is typical and variable. Abbey National plc, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6XL.

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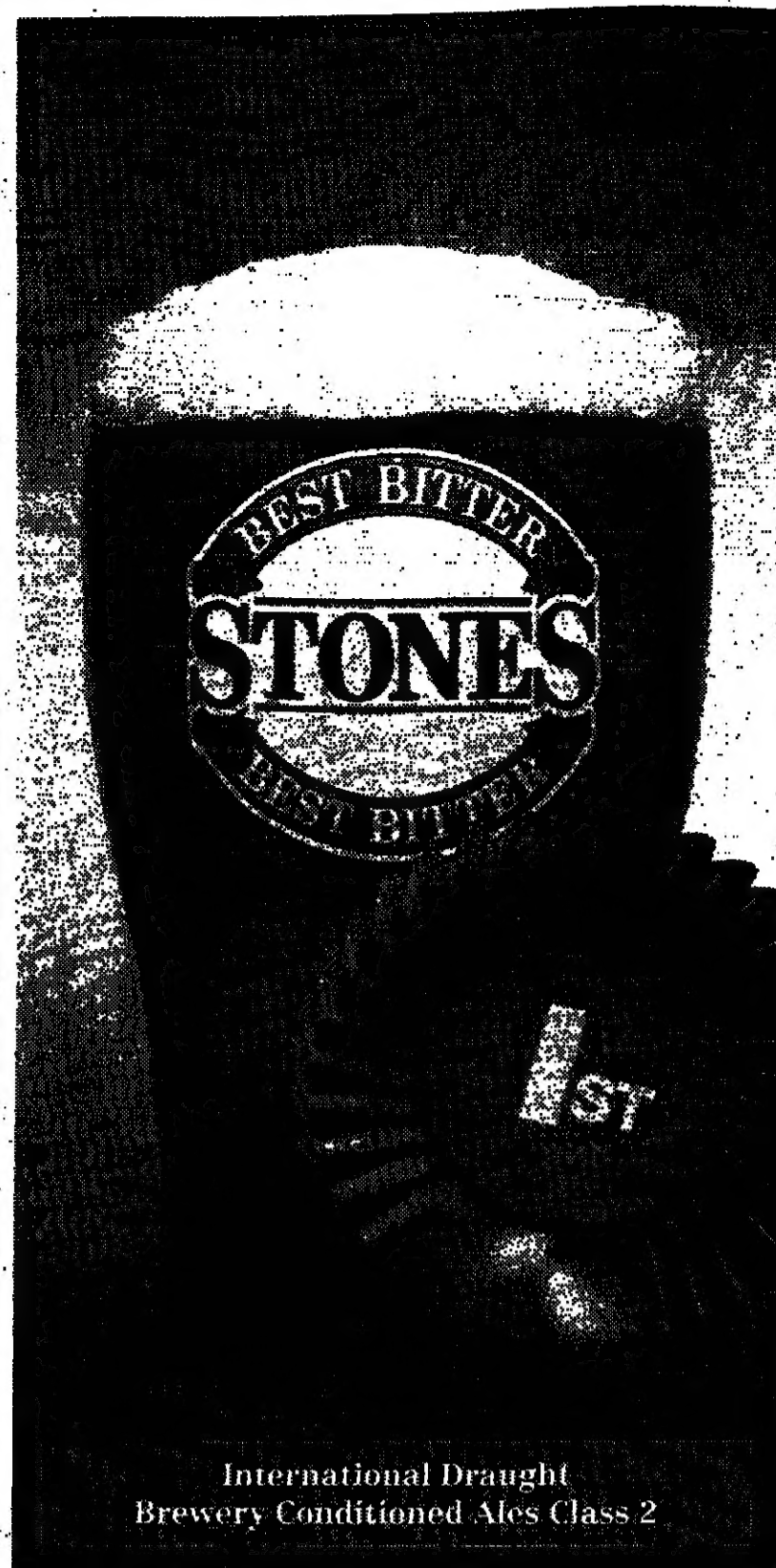




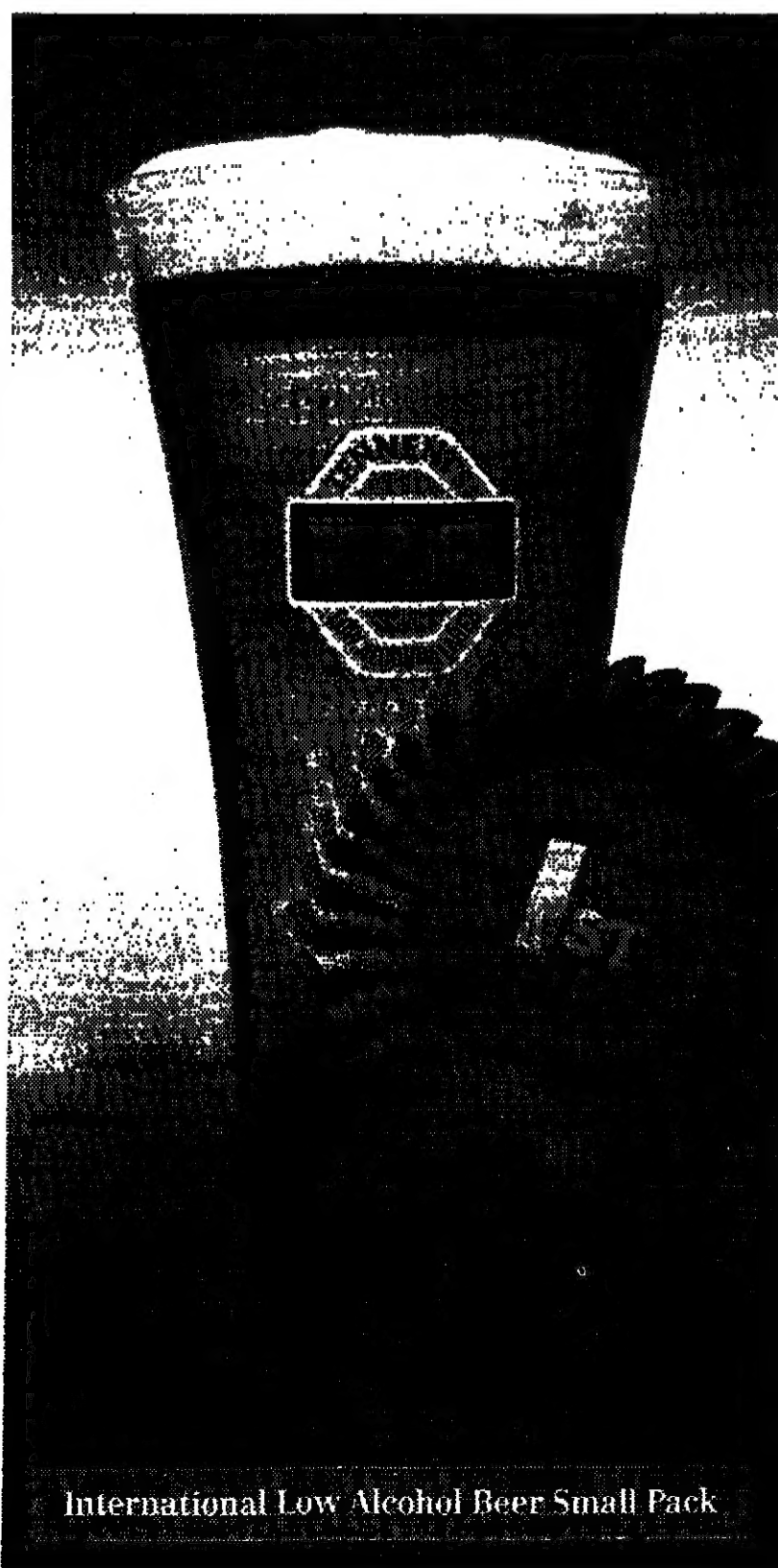
International Cask Conditioned Beer Class 2



International Draught Lager Class 1

International Draught
Brewery Conditioned Ales Class 2

Following yet more awards, guess what we'll be organising again in our brewery?



International Low Alcohol Beer Small Pack



International Strong Beer Small Pack

That's right, another small celebration.

At the 1992 Brewing Industry International Awards, following the recent success of Tennent's Pilsner, Draught Bass and Stones Best Bitter, we're pleased to announce that Tennent's Super and Tennent's LA have picked up first prizes in their respective categories.

In other categories, Tennent's Extra, Allbright Bitter and Carling Black Label picked up two second prizes and one third prize.

In all, over 700 beers from 37 countries were judged by an international panel of experts.

Their verdict gives testimony to Bass's belief in traditional brewing values and professional expertise.

And our belief that, in a brewery, you have to organise things properly.

Bass Brewers

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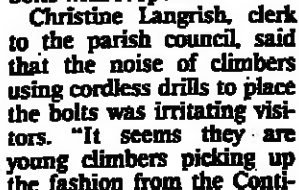
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Climbe

The complaints reached

young climbers picking up
the fashion from the Conti-



Ken Tilford, the area access officer for the mountaineering council, met parish councillors to explain why the bolts were used. "If you fall off on to a bolt, you go 20ft instead of 100ft," he said. "They make it possible for climbers to attempt stretches of rock that present the highest standards of technical difficulty." The council is likely to endorse a policy restricting bolts to certain quarried crags and sections of limestone cliff where they do not change the character of a climb.

The Home Office will publish a green paper this summer. About the same time, the BBC will set out its position. In 1993 or 1994 a white paper and a bill for the renewal of the BBC's royal charter in 1996 will be published.

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Power windmills 'will scar landscape'

By John Young

SOME of the most beautiful parts of the country could be disfigured by a rash of badly sited wind power stations in the hunt for renewable energy, the Council for the Protection of Rural England said yesterday.

Ben Flouwen, the council's energy campaigner, said that it fully supported the environmentally sensitive development of renewable energy resources. But the government's recent planning policy guidance note suggested that it was prepared to promote energy generation at the expense of protected landscapes. Such developments could undermine public support for the principle of finding alternatives to fossil fuel burning.

The policy note suggested that there should be a presumption in favour of renewable energy projects, which would not be accepted in the case of any other form of development, and would permit such projects even in national parks and areas of outstanding natural beauty.

Around the world in 14 days by non-stop balloon

Nigel Hawkes reports on a helium-filled balloon which uses a novel method to keep its height night and day, and on the three aeronauts who aim to beat Phileas Fogg's famous 80-day journey

TWO Americans and a Russian are waiting to take off on the last great challenge open to balloonists, flying non-stop around the world.

Take-off was scheduled for last Friday, but was cancelled at the last moment as strong winds threatened the launch. When conditions are right, the balloon Earthwinds will rise from its berth at the Loral Defence Systems air dock in Akron, Ohio, a huge hangar built for dirigibles in 1929.

The aim is to rise smoothly to a height of about 35,000 feet and allow the eastward-flowing jetstream to carry the balloon right around the world in about 14 days. On board will be the captain, Larry Newman, an American millionaire businessman, Don Moses, an airline pilot, and Russian cosmonaut Major General Vladimir Dzhanibekov, a veteran of five space missions.

Unlike the balloons in which Richard Branson, the British entrepreneur, and Per Lindstrand crossed the Atlantic and Pacific oceans,

Earthwinds gets its lift from helium gas rather than hot air. Hot air balloons must carry heavy canisters of propane gas to fuel their burners, and so do not have the range for a round-the-world flight. Helium balloons have a longer range but must carry ballast which can be discarded in order to make them go higher.

This is particularly important in a balloon that will fly both day and night, because changes of temperature will affect the lift of the helium gas, necessitating changes of ballast to maintain the right height. The novelty of Earthwinds is that it can manufacture its own ballast — something that has not been done before.

The balloon is shaped like an egg-timer, with a 1.1

million cubic feet helium envelope supporting a capsule 24 feet by 10 feet and made of glass fibre. Below the capsule hangs a second balloon, filled with air, which serves as ballast and can be pressurised by pumping more air into it.

At night, as the air cools and the helium provides less lift, air will be bled off from the lower balloon to maintain the correct height. When the sun rises and the helium warms up again, its lift will increase, and to counteract it, more air will be compressed into the lower balloon.

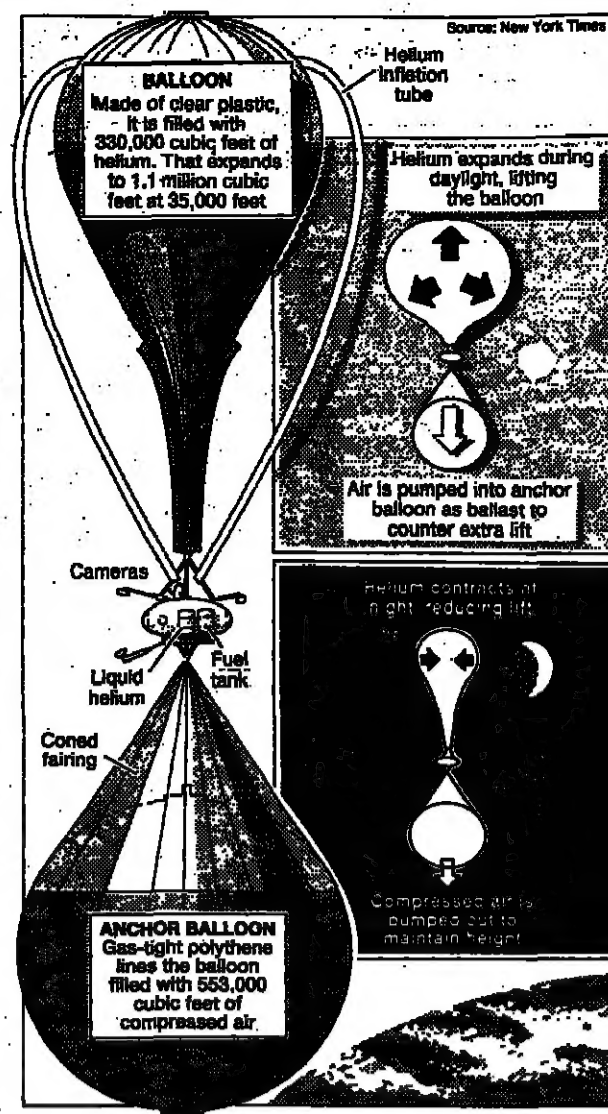
The extra air in the lower balloon will increase its weight by up to 1,800 pounds, sufficient to hold it down. This means that it should never be necessary to

bleed off the helium, which must be conserved if the flight is to last long enough to circumnavigate the globe without stopping.

The launch is likely to be the most dangerous part of the flight. A small prototype came close to crashing the first time it was launched, but once aloft stayed up for two days, proving the principles of the design.

The balloon cost \$3.5 million, provided by Mr Newman, Mr Branson's Virgin Atlantic Airways, and the Hilton Hotels Corporation, which furnished the cabin with carpeting and a single bunk on which the crew will take eight-hour shifts.

Mr Newman, who is 44 and a former airline captain for American West Airlines, told the *New York Times*: "I'm a bit uneasy flying a balloon that's dependent on so much new and relatively untested technology, but after you've checked and re-checked every component a hundred times, you have to put your faith in the system and hope for the best."



Opinion poll launched at courts

Everyone involved in criminal trials at crown courts in England and Wales will be asked for their views on the workings of the system in what is believed to be the first full survey of its kind (Frances Gibb writes).

The two-week Royal Commission on Criminal Justice study, which begins today, builds on a pilot project in three crown courts a month ago. An estimated 4,000 potential cases will be covered. The survey has the support of the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice and all legal professional bodies.

Juries will be asked if they understood the evidence and if any felt unable to cope through inadequate command of English. They will also be asked to rate the performance of the judge and lawyers. Defendants will be asked if they were satisfied with their lawyers, if they had any complaint about their treatment by police and, if they pleaded guilty, if they committed the offence with which they were charged.

One of the longest of the nine questionnaires, with 198 questions, is for defence barristers. Judges are asked 89 questions, defendants 85, and jurors 81.

Freedom is an academic question

A PRISONER at a jail where 20 people escaped in 18 months amazed the authorities when he begged them to let him stay.

The man at Acklington jail, in Northumberland, wanted to complete a course to gain his Community Sports Leader's Award.

After serving two years of a four-year sentence for burglary, he had been given parole. The horrified inmate, who is in his thirties, asked the Home Office if he could stay for another two months.

Tony Lound, a governor at the jail, said: "It was a surprise. I've been in this job 27 years and I've never known of an inmate asking to stay in longer than he has to." The unnamed man, from Middlesbrough, agreed to leave when he finished his studies.

Mr Lound said: "He passed his course with flying colours. It will be a big help to him in trying to get a sports supervising job." The course included helping to run the prison gym.

The prison was nicknamed a Butlins holiday camp after repeated escapes.

Mosque appeal

Muslim leaders at the Saddam Hussein mosque in Aston, built with the help of a £2 million donation from the Iraqi president, have asked Birmingham city council for permission to erect a steel fence to deter vandals.

Old bones

British Gas workers laying a pipeline near Caerleon, in Gwent, have unearthed a Roman cemetery which is thought to contain the remains of more than 2,000 soldiers.

Calm waters

Signalmen have chosen an aquarium instead of a budgie to keep them calm and relaxed in a new signal box at Gateshead, Tyne and Wear.

Clean sweep

A pair of crows have stolen windscreen wipers from the cars of 18 employees at the ICI Wilton works, Teesside.

Bond winners

National Savings Premium Bonds prize draw weekly winners: £100,000, bond number 908 401235; Herford (value of holding: £320); £50,000, 908225; Middlesbrough (£3,425); £25,000, 28WV 287748, South Humberside (£3,214).

Slimming snacks 'have too much fat'

By Peter Victor

SLIMMING snacks and drinks intended to replace meals contain too much fat, too little protein and do little to help slimmers to develop healthy eating habits, says a report today by the Food Commission.

The products, sold most often as biscuits or drink mixes to be taken instead of a meal, are the fastest growing sector in a slimming aid market worth an estimated £20 million. Despite claims that these products are wholesome and nutritionally balanced, the commission found that they all contained too few calories per meal and more than half were too high in fat and too low in protein. Few contained all the vitamins and minerals advised by the European Community.

High sugar levels encouraged a sweet tooth, the commission said. One product claimed: "With lifestyles, your sweet tooth will not be a problem. You can eat our Dutch chocolate cake for breakfast." Such products were likely to continue the poor dietary habits that led to weight problems in the first place.

Claims that the products can offer weight loss of up to 10lb a week are grossly misleading, the report says. Nutritionists do not advise weight loss of more than 2lb a week.

"There is nothing nutritionally special about these products," Sue Dibb, the report's author, said. The commission wants the government to support an EC directive to improve nutritional standards of meal replacement products.

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Scornful Israelis rub salt into army's latest wounds

When the first grisly details of this weekend's attack against Israeli soldiers were made public, the angry response was not primarily directed at the Palestinian perpetrators, but aimed at the army, the Israel Defence Force (IDF), normally the country's most cherished institution.

Israelis are not used to seeing Arab attackers act with apparent impunity. Israeli intelligence in Lebanon is clearly impressive, as demonstrated by yesterday's precision attack against Hezbollah, killing Sheikh Abbas Moussawi. Yet while senior officers and government officials responded to the murder of three soldiers on Friday night with the standard condemnation for "terrorist attacks" and ferocious reprisal raids, they were unable to limit the significant damage to morale and prestige of the much-vaunted armed forces.

In particular, Moshe Arens, the defence minister, and General Ehud Barak, his chief of staff, will have to explain in the coming days how a handful of Palestinians armed only with knives and axes were able to infiltrate a military camp near the West Bank, overpower

The guerrilla killing of three soldiers has further undermined public confidence in the army and hit morale, Richard Beeston writes in Jerusalem

and kill the armed sentry, murder two other soldiers, leave a fourth man injured and escape with four captured automatic weapons. Most commentators described the incident as the most humiliating since the hang-glider attack in November 1987 when a Palestinian gunman landed undetected in northern Galilee from southern Lebanon, and killed six Israeli soldiers in an army camp before being killed himself.

Rafael Eitan, former chief of staff and now head of the right-wing Tzomet party, spoke for many retired officers when he criticised the state of the Israeli military, which he accused of lacking norms of basic discipline and military procedures. He said the attack was a "disgrace" which would only serve to encourage Arabs to believe they would have a chance of defeating Israel in war rather than seeking peace through negotiations.

While disciplinary action is expected to be taken, the incident is the latest in a series of setbacks which have undermined public confidence in the army and damaged the morale of its personnel. For many Israelis, the failure last year to respond militarily to Iraq's Scud missile attacks has greatly reduced Israel's credibility. Since then, the army has suffered a string of casualties in skirmishes with Shia Muslim guerrillas in southern Lebanon, and failed to stop ambushes by Palestinian gunmen against Jewish settlers.

Zeev Schiff, the defence correspondent of *Haaretz*, the respected Hebrew daily, described the latest incident as a case of "criminal negligence", and Alon Pinkas, his counterpart on the *Jerusalem Post*, the English daily, said the lack of security around the training base where the attack occurred was symptomatic of the complacency

which exists throughout the military establishment. "Signs of army laxity, indiscipline and irresponsibility have been all too abundant in recent years," the *Jerusalem Post* said yesterday.

Major-General Avihu Bin-nun, the former head of the Israeli airforce, said before his retirement at the end of last year that the problem lay primarily with Israel's political leadership. "Today, the IDF is not getting political guidance on issues pertaining to security concepts. Anarchy develops," he said.

Although General Barak promised to overhaul the army when he took over as chief of staff a year ago, the IDF remains an unwieldy and overmanned force, which ranges from the highly motivated combat units to the largely uninspired and poorly trained reservists.

New immigrants from the former Soviet Union, two of whom were killed on Friday, present a particular problem for military planners, since many of the arrivals have little or no interest in serving their new country in a uniform. A poll published last month revealed that only 26 per cent of the immi-

grants showed a high degree of willingness to serve, compared with 96 per cent of other Israelis of conscription age between 17 and 23. Fifty per cent said they did not want to join the army.

The problem was highlighted by David Horowitz, a new immigrant from Britain, who wrote in the *Jerusalem Report* magazine about conditions at his basic training camp in southern Israel. "Our commanders did their utmost to harangue our group — about 40 or so Russians, several immigrants from Iran, a handful of ultra-Orthodox Israelis, another Ethiopian and a peppering of Westerners — into shape. But they knew they were fighting a losing battle."

"They turned a blind eye to the widespread practice of smoking on parade, accepted that there were those among us who would never fully penetrate the mysteries of army-style blanket-folding, and only curtailed an impromptu Saturday night singing-while-washing-up routine when over-enthusiastic percussion caused the smashing of several plastic plates."



Search party: an Israeli army unit patrolling the Ein Ibrahim area where three young soldiers were killed by Arabs armed only with knives and axes

Israeli revenge, page 1

Bonn gets tough with abductors of relief workers

FROM ALI JABER IN BEIRUT

GERMANY has decided to take tough action to free the two German hostages held by Lebanese kidnappers after the apparent failure of the United Nations to secure their release.

A Muslim fundamentalist official here said that the kidnappers of the two aid work-

ers, Heinrich Struebig, aged 50, and Thomas Kempfner, aged 30, have threatened to snatch the UN chief hostage negotiator, Giandomenico Pico, if he tries to resume his mission in Beirut.

The sources said Signor Pico was advised not to return to Lebanon after he had failed to convince Bonn to fulfil the kidnappers' demands and release two Lebanese Shia brothers convicted for acts of terrorism by a German court. The kidnappers are insisting on the release of Muhammad Ali Hamadi and his brother, Abbas. The brothers were convicted on an array of charges ranging from air piracy to murder and conspiracy. They released a video of the German hostages in Beirut last December.

The German government virtually ended Signor Pico's mission, which late last year secured the release of nine American and British hostages, by ruling out any possibility for a "swap". Instead, Bonn has opted for an aggressive strategy to secure the release of its captives, a Western diplomat here said. After sending at least six envoys to Tehran and Syria — the main players — Bonn told the authorities here yesterday that it was delaying international aid for Lebanon until the release of the hostages. Lebanon has repeatedly stated that it was against hostage-taking, but has also emphasised that any solution to the hostage issue was in the hands of foreign powers.

Heinrich Struebig and Hart Kempfner were abducted in south Lebanon on May 12, 1989. It is widely believed here that the chief of security of Hezbollah, the pro-Iranian guerrilla organization, Abdul-Hadi Hamadi, a brother of the jailed Hamadis, is behind their kidnap. He is said to be getting strong support from Iran and Syria.

A Lebanese politician involved in the delicate talks would not confirm or deny that Germany has asked Lebanon to use force to free the hostages as the kidnappers' names and addresses are well-known in Beirut.

Struebig: pleading for freedom on video



Kempfner: tape linked his fate to Hamadis

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Syria to remain on US terrorism list

FROM REUTER IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA has rejected Syrian requests to be dropped from Washington's list of nations which sponsor terrorism, a senior State Department official said. Damascus has been pushing to be removed as a reward for backing the United States in the Gulf war and co-operating in Middle East peace efforts.

The department reports to Congress each year on global terrorism. Countries which in its view co-operate with terrorist groups are ineligible for preferential trade relations with America, trade credits, or loans from international financial institutions. Last year's report listed Iraq, Iran, Syria, Libya, Cuba and North Korea. The official said they would be cited again when the report is updated in April. Damascus argues it has not been directly involved in terrorism for years. Its case was boosted after it was cleared of involvement in the 1988 bombing of the Pan Am jet over Lockerbie. Syria also helped gain the release of US hostages in Lebanon.

But the official said its

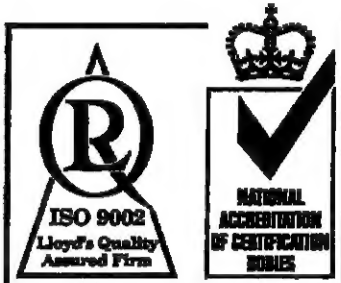
record was still far from satisfactory. "Syria continues to be the host to a wide range of terrorist groups, in Syria itself and in the Bekaa valley, in Lebanon, under the noses of Syrian troops." He cited such groups as the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia, the Kurdish Workers' party, operational in Turkey, the Japanese Red Army Faction, and radical Palestinian groups, including the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command.

If Syria wanted to be removed from the list, it would have to expel all these groups, shut down their operations, and publicly renounce terrorism, the official said. Syria maintains that Palestinians who mount operations in Israel or the occupied territories are involved in legitimate guerrilla activity to achieve their national rights. Washington rejects this argument.

Another official said that Syria's record in its war against drugs also fell short of Washington's requirements.

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Last Friday, our elected representatives in Parliament had the opportunity to oppose that barbaric rural pastime and so-called sport: fox hunting.

Sadly, the Wild Mammals (Protection) Bill narrowly failed to win enough support.

The fact remains, however, that *80% of the electorate has declared itself against what Oscar Wilde so aptly described as 'the unspeakable in full pursuit of the uneatable'.

Those MPs still in favour of fox

and stag hunting are a privileged and powerful few.

Whether they remain so is up to us, the people who voted them into power in the first place.

Before you vote at the coming election, find out what kind of animal your MP is:

Run your eye down these columns and see how he or she voted last Friday.

MPs with a ★ voted against hunting. MPs with a □ didn't vote. MPs with a ● voted to continue the killing.

We hope this information colours your judgement.

We're the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and we've been successfully campaigning against all forms of cruelty to animals for 23 years.

For our action pack, please call 0272 244742. Then call your MP.

The bill may be dead, but let's keep the issue alive.

International Fund for Animal Welfare (Dept A), Tubwell House, New Rd, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 2QH.

To show you what kind of animal your MP is, we're naming names.

ENGLAND		HAVERING		LEYTON		MAKESFIELD		SUTTON COLDFIELD		Rt Hon Sir Norman Fowler (C)	
GREATER LONDON		BARKING AND DAGENHAM		WANDSWORTH		Wigan		★ Yardley		David Gilroy Bevan (C)	
★ Barking	Jo Richardson (L)	● Romford	Robin Squire (C)	● Wandsworth	Hugo Summerson (C)	★ Worsley	Terry Lewis (L)	WEST MIDLANDS		COVENTRY	
★ Dagenham	Bryan Gould (L)	● Upminster	Sir Michael Neubert (C)	□ Battersea	John Bowis (C)	MERSEYSIDE		★ North East		John Hughes (L)	
BARNET		HILLINGDON		□ Putney	Rt Hon David Mellor (C)	KNOWSLEY		★ North West		Geoffrey Robinson (L)	
□ Chipping Barnet	Sydney Chapman (L)	● Ruislip-Northwood	Terry Dicks (C)	★ Tooting	Tom Cox (L)	★ South		★ South East		Dave Nellist (RepLab)	
□ Finchley	Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher (C)	● Uxbridge	John Wilkinson (C)	WESTMINSTER (AND CITY OF LONDON)		★ South		□ South West		John Butcher (C)	
□ Hendon North	John Gorer (C)	HOUNSLOW		● City of London	Rt Hon Peter Brooke (C)	★ South		★ East		Rt Hon Dr John Gilbert (L)	
□ Hendon South	John Marshall (C)	□ Brentford & Isleworth	Rt Hon Sir Barney Hayhoe (C)	□ Westminster South	Sir John Wheeler (RepLab)	★ South		□ West		Dr John Blackburn (C)	
BEXLEY		● Feltham & Heston	Patrick Groun (C)	METROPOLITAN COUNTIES		★ South		★ Halesowen & Scourbridge		Sir John Stokes (C)	
● Bexleyheath	Cyril Townsend (C)	ISLINGTON		GREATER MANCHESTER		★ South		★ Sandwell		Andrew Faulds (L)	
□ Erith & Crayford	David Evennett (C)	★ North	Jeremy Corbyn (L)	BOLTON		★ South		★ Walsley East		Rt Hon Peter Archer (C)	
□ Old Bexley & Sidcup	Rt Hon Edward Heath (C)	★ South & Finbury	Chris Smith (L)	□ North East	Peter Thurnham (C)	★ South		★ Walsley West		Rt Hon Peter Archer (C)	
BRENT		KENSINGTON AND CHELSEA		□ South East	David Young (L)	★ South		★ West Birmingham		Peter Snape (L)	
★ East	Ken Livingstone (L)	□ Chelsea	Rt Hon Nicholas Scott (RepLab)	□ West	Hon Tom Sackville (C)	★ South		□ West Birmingham West		Miss Betty Boothroyd (L)	
□ North	Rt Hon Sir Rhodes Boyson (C)	★ Kensington	Dudley Fishburn (C)	BURY		★ South		SOLIHULL		Iain Mills (C)	
★ South	Paul Boateng (L)	KINGSTON UPON THAMES		□ North	Alistair Burt (C)	★ South		★ Solihull		John Mark Taylor (C)	
BROMLEY		● Kingston upon Thames	Rt Hon Norman Lamont (C)	□ South	David Sumner (C)	★ South		WALSALL		Richard Shepherd (C)	
● Beckenham	Sir Philip Goodhart (C)	● Surbiton	Richard Tracey (C)	MANCHESTER		★ South		□ Walsall North		David Wainwright (L)	
● Chislehurst	Roger Sims (C)	LAMBETH		□ Blackley	Kenneth Eastham (L)	★ South		□ Walsall South		Bruce George (L)	
□ Orpington	Ivor Seabrook (C)	★ Norwood	John Fraser (L)	★ Central	Robert Litherland (L)	★ South		WOLVERHAMPTON		Mrs Maureen Hicks (C)	
★ Ravensbourne	Sir John Hunt (C)	□ Streatham	Sir William Shelton (C)	★ Gorton	Rt Hon Gerald Kaufman (L)	★ South		□ North East		Dennis Turner (L)	
CAMDEN		□ Vauxhall	Miss Kate Hoey (L)	★ Withington	Keith Bradley (L)	★ South		★ South East		Nicholas Turner (C)	
● Hampstead & Highgate	Sir Geoffrey Fineberg (RepLab)	LEWISHAM		★ Wythehouse	Rt Hon Alfred Morris (L)	★ South		YORKSHIRE-SOUTH		Eric Illsley (L)	
★ Holborn & St Pancras	Frank Dobson (L)	★ Deptford	Mrs Joan Ruddock (L)	★ Streatham	Tony Lloyd (L)	★ South		BARNESLEY		Terry Patchett (L)	
CROYDON		□ East	Hon Colin Moynihan (C)	TRAFFORD		★ South		★ East		Allen McKay (L)	
□ Central	Rt Hon John Moore (C)	□ West	John Maples (C)	● Altrincham & Sale	Sir Fergus Montgomery (C)	★ South		DONCASTER		Rt Hon Harold Walker (L)	
□ North East	Rt Hon Bernard Weatherill (C)	MERTON		● Droylsham	Winston Churchill (C)	★ South		□ Central		Mick Welsh (L)	
● North West	Humphrey Malins (C)	□ Mitcham & Morden	Rt Hon Angela Rumbold (C)	★ Streatham	Tony Lloyd (L)	★ South		★ North		Martin Redmond (L)	
● South	Rt Hon Sir William Clark (C)	★ Wimbledon	Dr Charles Goodson-Wicks (C)	OLDHAM		★ South		ROTHESHAM		Sean Crowther (L)	
EALING		NEWHAM		□ Littleborough & Saddleworth	Geoffrey Dickens (C)	★ South		★ Rother Valley		Kevin Barron (L)	
□ Acton	Sir George Young (C)	★ North East	Ron Leighton (L)	□ Oldham Central & Royton	Sir Cyril Smith (RepLab)	★ South		★ Wentworth		Peter Hardy (L)	
□ North	Harry Greenaway (C)	★ South	Tony Banks (L)	□ Oldham West & Rochdale	James Lamond (L)	★ South		SHEFFIELD		Sir Patrick Duffy (L)	
★ Southall	Sydney Bidwell (L)	REDBRIDGE		□ Heywood & Middleton	Michael Meacher (L)	★ South		★ Amerscliffe		David Blunkett (L)	
ENFIELD		□ Ilford North	Vivian Bendall (C)	□ Littleborough & Saddleworth	Jim Callaghan (L)	★ South		□ Brightside		Richard Ceborn (L)	
□ Edmonton	Dr Ian Twinn (C)	□ Ilford South	Neil Thomas (RepLab)	□ Rochdale	Geoffrey Dickens (C)	★ South		□ Central		Irvine Patrick (C)	
□ North	Tim Eggar (C)	● Wanstead & Woodford	James Arbuthnot (C)	□ Rochdale	Sir Cyril Smith (RepLab)	★ South		★ Heeley		Bill Michie (L)	
□ Southgate	Michael Portillo (C)	RICHMOND UPON THAMES		★ Eccles	Ma Joan Lester (L)	★ South		★ Hillsborough		Martin Flannery (L)	
GREENWICH		□ Richmond & Barnes	Jeremy Hanley (C)	□ Salford East	Rt Hon Stan Orme (L)	★ South		YORKSHIRE-WEST		Terry Rooney (L)	
□ Eltham	Peter Bottomley (C)	● Twickenham	Toby Jessel (C)	★ Salford West	Terry Lewis (L)	★ South		BRADFORD		Bob Cray (L)	
★ Greenwich	Mrs Rosie Barnes (RepLab)	SOUTHWARK		□ Salford West	Stephen Day (C)	★ South		★ Bradford North		Max Madden (L)	
★ Woolwich	John Cartwright (RepLab)	□ Dulwich	Gerald Bowden (C)	□ Salford West	Andrew Bennett (L)	★ South		★ Bradford South		Gary Waller (C)	
HAGLENEY		★ Peckham	Ms Harriet Harman (L)	□ Salford West	Sir Tom Arnold (C)	★ South		★ Bradford West		Sir Marcus Fox (RepLab)	
★ North & Stoke Newington	Ms Diane Abbott (L)	★ Southwark & Bermondsey	Simon Hughes (L)	□ Salford West	Tony Fawell (C)	★ South		□ Keighley		Sir Donald Thompson (C)	
★ South & Shoreditch	Brian Sedgemoor (L)	SUTTON		□ Salford West	Andrew Bennett (L)	★ South		★ Shipley		Mrs Alice Mahon (L)	
HAMMERSMITH AND FULHAM		□ Carshalton & Wallington	Nigel Forman (C)	□ Salford West	Thom Pendry (L)	★ South		★ Calderdale			
● Fulham	Matthew Carrington (C)	□ Sutton & Cheam	Sir Neil Macfarlane (C)	□ Salford West	Lawrence Cunliffe (L)	★ South					
□ Hammersmith	Clive Soley (L)	TOWER HAMLETS		□ Salford West		★ South					
HARINGEY		★ Bethnal Green & Stepney	Rt Hon Peter Shore (L)	□ Salford West		★ South					
★ Haringey & Wood Green	Sir Hugh Rossi (C)	★ Bow & Poplar	Mrs Mildred Gordon (L)	□ Salford West		★ South					
□ Tottenham	Bernie Grant (L)	WALTHAM FOREST		□ Salford West		★ South					
HARROW		● Chingford	Rt Hon Norman Tebbit (C)	□ Salford West		★ South					
□ East	Hugh Dylas (C)			□ Salford West		★ South					
★ West	Robert G Hughes (C)			□ Salford West		★ South					

KIRKLEES Bailey & Spen Colne Valley Dewsbury Huddersfield LEEDS Elmet Leeds Central Leeds East Leeds North East Leeds North West Leeds West Leeds South & Morley Normanton Pudsey WAKEFIELD Hemsworth Normanton Pontefract & Castleford Wakefield		Mrs Elizabeth Peacock (C) Graham Riddick (C) Mrs Ann Taylor (L) Barry Sheerman (L) Spencer Batiste (C) Derek Fatchett (L) Rt Hon Denis Healey CMB (L) Timothy Kirkhope (C) Dr Keith Hampshire (C) John Bantle (L) Rt Hon Marilyn Rees (L) William O'Brien (L) Sir Giles Shaw (C) Derek Enright (L) William O'Brien (L) Geoffrey Lofthouse (L) David Hinchliffe (L)		NON-METROPOLITAN COUNTIES AVON Bath Bristol East Bristol North West Bristol South Bristol West Kingwood Northavon Wansdyke Weston-super-Mare Woodspring BEDFORDSHIRE Mid-Bedfordshire North Bedfordshire South West Bedfordshire North Luton Luton South BERKSHIRE East Berkshire Newbury Reading East Reading West Slough Windsor & Maidenhead Wokingham BUCKINGHAMSHIRE Aylesbury Beaconsfield Buckingham Chesham & Amersham Milton Keynes Wycombe CAMBRIDGESHIRE Cambridge Huntingdon Peterborough North East Cambridgeshire South East Cambridgeshire South West Cambridgeshire CESHIRESHIRE City of Chester Congleton Crewe & Nantwich Eddisbury Ellesmere Port & Neston Halton Macclesfield Tatton Warrington North Warrington South CLEVELAND Langbaugh Hartlepool Middlesbrough Redcar Stockton North Stockton South CORNWALL AND THE ISLES OF SCILLY Falmouth & Camborne North Cornwall St Ives South East Cornwall Truro CUMBRIA Barrow & Furness Carlisle Coppeland Penrith & The Border Westmorland & Lonsdale Workington DERBYSHIRE Amber Valley Bolsover Chesterfield Derby North Derby South Erewash High Peak North East Derbyshire South Derbyshire West Derbyshire DEVON Exeter		Sir Peter Emery (C) Tony Speller (C) Rt Hon Dr David Owen (SN) Dame Janet Fookes DBE (C) Rt Hon Alan Clark (C) Anthony Steen (C) Patrick Nicholls (C) Sir Robin Maxwell-Hyslop (C) Rupert Allison (C) Emma Nicholson (C) David Atkinson (C) John Butterfill (C) Robert Adley (C) Nicholas Baker (C) John Ward (C) Ian Bruce (C) Sir James Spicer (C) Derek Foster (L) Gerry Steinberg (L) Michael Fallon (C) John Cummings (L) Giles Radice (L) Rt Hon Tony Newton (L) Tony Blair (L) David Amess (C) Mrs Theresa Gorman (C) Rt Hon Tony Newton (C) Sir Robert McCrindle (C) Rt Hon Sir Bernard Braine DL (C) Simon Burns (C) Sir Anthony Buck (C) Rt Hon John Wakeham (C) Steven Norris (C) Jerry Hayes (C) Sir Julian Ridsdale (C) Dr Michael Clark (C) Alan Haselhurst (C) Sir Teddy Taylor (C) Rt Hon Paul Channon (C) Tim Jannan (C) Sir Charles Irving (C) Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley (C) Douglas French (C) Paul Marland (C) Roger Knapman (C) Julian Critchley (C) Andrew Hunter (C) Michael Mates (C) Sir David Price (C) Peter Lloyd (C) Peter Viggers (C) Sir Ian Lloyd (C) Sir Patrick McNair-Wilson (C) Sir David Mitchell (C) Peter Griffiths (C) David Martin (C) Michael Colvin (C) Christopher Chope (C) James Hill (C) John Browne (C) Sir Hal Miller (C) Colin Shepherd 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* Against hunting □ Didn't vote • For hunting † Teller

If you're against hunting, vote against hunting.



* Call for League Against Cruel Sports, November 1991.

The Yugoslav civil war

Tudjman pledges to punish Croat abuses of Serbs

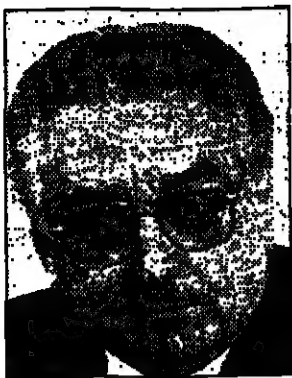
FROM TIM JUDAH AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

MARIO Nobilo, a close aide of President Tudjman of Croatia, promised over the weekend that human rights abuses committed by Croats against Serbs would not be tolerated and offenders would be tried.

Mr Nobilo was responding to a report issued by the New York based human rights watchdog group Helsinki Watch which alleged that Croatian forces had been behind summary killings, disappearances and other abuses. It mirrored a similar recent document, issued by Helsinki Watch, which accused the Yugoslav army and Serb irregulars of many similar acts.

Mr Nobilo blamed abuses on individuals and "organised extremists", an apparent reference to the neo-fascist Croatian Party of Right which has had its own units within the Croatian armed forces. "It would be a miracle if we did not have cases of this kind in the middle of a war," said Mr Nobilo.

He said that President



Tudjman: ordered inquiry last year

Tudjman had ordered investigations into alleged abuses "some months ago." But he criticised Helsinki Watch for "accusing us of doing such things intentionally as a government. While the Serbian side has been strongly attacked for atrocities and massacres since the war began last summer, Croatian abuses have only recently started to come to light.

As the prospects for the despatch of a United Nations peacekeeping force rise and the war winds down, the Serbian opposition have mounted their first real challenge to the Serbian government since the beginning of the conflict. Serbian opposition parties have united behind a campaign to force the resignation of President Milosevic and in three days activists claim to have collected 120,000 signatures on an anti-government petition. Officials from Mr Milosevic's ruling Socialist Party have denounced the petition campaign as aiming for a "coup".

"Let's look truth in the eyes — Serbia is defeated and humiliated," says a hard hitting leaflet calling on Serbs to sign the petition. It calls for President Milosevic's resignation and for elections to a constituent assembly. Serbia's two main opposition parties which are behind the campaign oppose President Milosevic's plans for a "new Yugoslavia" and are demanding independence. Opposition leaders say that while they are well aware that a petition alone cannot topple Serbia's leader, they have mounted the campaign to test

their own strength and to prepare the ground for demonstrations to be held next month. On March 9 last year a big rally in Belgrade ended with tanks on the streets and two deaths after security forces moved against anti-government demonstrators. Vuk Draskovic, the leader of Serbia's main opposition party has said that he wants the anniversary to be marked with "candles and flowers." Radoman Bozovic, Serbia's Prime Minister has responded: "We shall not allow the undemocratic overthrow of the government."

Ninety stalls to collect signatures have been set up in Belgrade, and business was brisk over the weekend. Vesna, an activist of the Democratic Party which launched the campaign and who was manning a bustling stall yesterday morning said: "We got 48 signatures in the first 15 minutes today. I've been really surprised by the tremendous response."

Sandra, a teacher who signed, said: "Milosevic is the enemy of our people. He is a communist and he started a war in which many have died. I can't really believe that this could be the beginning of the end for him but I'm hoping against hope."

Opposition activists have admitted that the response in the countryside and in the provinces has so far proved disappointing. However they are hoping that the newfound unity of Serbia's two main opposition parties will persuade former Socialist supporters, disgruntled with hyperinflation and unemployment, to come over to their side.

Throughout the war in Croatia, the Serbian opposition has been indecisive and ineffective. The present campaign is as much a test of their own staying power as it is one of the popularity of President Milosevic.

While socialist politicians have denounced the petition in public, in private they claim to be unworried. "They've no chance of success," said Mihailo Markovic, a close aide to Mr Milosevic. "The opposition simply have no credible alternative leader."



Embracing the fascist way: Alessandra Mussolini, granddaughter of Benito Mussolini, the wartime fascist dictator, kisses her father Romano after formally announcing her candidacy for the neo-fascist party, the MSI, in the Italian general election on April 5. Signora Mussolini, aged 28, is a medical student. Her father is a

jazz pianist; her aunt is Sophia Loren (Our Foreign Staff writes). Signora Mussolini, who will stand in a Naples constituency, insists that her political ambitions are serious. She is standing for the neo-fascists because they "are closest to the ideas of my grandfather". The period when fascism was thought "shameful" had passed.

Skopje wants to set up army

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE AND CHRISTOPHER ELIJOU IN ATHENS

AS THE Croatian war winds down and Serbs turn to their own problems, the parliament of the Macedonian republic voted at the weekend to found an army.

Macedonia's bid for international recognition has been frustrated by bitter Greek opposition and on Friday hundreds of thousands of people demonstrated against Macedonian independence in the Greek port of Thessalonika. Appealing to Macedonian political parties not to mount retaliatory anti-Greek demonstrations, Kiro Gligorov, the Macedonian president, denounced the rally saying: "Instead of friendship we have been greeted with hatred."

In Athens, Antonis Samaras, the Greek foreign minister, has voiced his determination to veto any move by the European Community to recognise Macedonia at the EC council of foreign ministers' meeting in Lisbon today. Constantine Mitsotakis, the prime minister, said at the weekend that he hoped the ministers would respond to Greece's demand that the three conditions set for recognition of the Yugoslav republic be strictly adhered to. They stipulate a change of the republic's name of "Macedonia", which Athens believes implies territorial claims against Greece; specific undertakings not to conduct hostile propaganda; and a pledge in the constitution that the republic has no claims on any part of northern Greece.

Although Greece would veto any EC recognition of the republic under its present name, it accepts that it can do nothing about recognition by individual Community members. Italy and Germany are believed to be preparing to do so following similar moves by Bulgaria and Turkey.

Mr Samaras will be circulating among his 11 EC colleagues banknotes from Skopje depicting a Thessalonika landmark and a map of the so-called Macedonia of the Aegean, incorporating the northern Greek province of Macedonia.

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Fancy footwork: a nine-year-old Albanian boy gets down to work polishing shoes in Pristina, Kosovo. Albanian families have on average seven children

Germans lament drugs fall of athletics' golden girl

The Olympics are turning sour for Germany, although the national team is well on top of the winter medal table in Albertville.

Yesterday there were yet more winter games medals to celebrate, but the nation is already mourning the fall of Karin Krabbe, the long-legged golden girl of athletics and probably one of East Germany's most valuable assets at the time of unification.

On Saturday, at about the time Uwe-Jens Mey was winning the 500m speed skating event, the German athletics federation decided to ban Krabbe, with two other leading athletes from her Neubrandenburg club, Grit Breuer and Silke Moeller, for four years for tampering with urine samples during a doping test in South Africa last month. Analysis proved the three samples came from the same source.

There is no proof the double world champion took drugs to boost her performance, but the federation is in no doubt that the tampering "could have been done only by the athletes or with their help and agreement". The three are all products of the East German training system, which turned the tiny

The press has turned against the pagagon of clean living it helped create, Ian Murray writes from Bonn

nation into the second most successful country in the world. The Olympics four years ago, and which has since been shown to have relied extensively on drugs.

Krabbe, however, whose long legs have often decorated the front page of popular newspapers, has demonstrated at track meetings with anti-drug banners and was portrayed as a paragon of hard work and clean living.

The sprinter has angrily repudiated earlier suspicions that, like other East German athletes, she might have taken drugs as "a cock and bull story" and has accused West Germans of boosting the allegations to undermine East German morale.

Yesterday Bild, which has done so much to create her clean image, turned on her. "No, this is not a cock and bull story but a story of lies," it said. "And sometimes the lies have long legs."

Krabbe has retreated to Neubrandenburg where she is refusing to answer the telephone. She has 28 days to appeal against the decision, but if she fails to prove she was not involved in manipulating tests she will not compete in Barcelona, where she would be a hot favourite to win at least one gold. She stands to lose millions in sponsorship and advertising contracts.

The federation president, Helmut Meyer, has confirmed that this is the second occasion on which Krabbe and Breuer have been involved in manipulating a urine test result. Manfred Donike, the Cologne expert who carried out both sets of tests, has explained that the urine samples were probably taken from a "clean" reservoir which the athletes kept cool for use if a specimen was suddenly required.

The German government has been so shocked by the revelations that it is now preparing an anti-doping law which will punish drug-taking in sport in the same way as other drug-taking offences.

Winter games, pages 29-30

Shoppers smell a rat in the dustbin of history

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

GERMAN consumers are seeing red over yellow rubbish bins, introduced to please Greens, which were installed by a consortium of 3,000 manufacturers after new legislation insisted that half of all packaging material must be collected separately and recycled.

Emptying of the bins is funded by a levy on every product sold by the manufacturers who have joined the scheme, which is meant to raise DM2 billion (£700 mil-

lion). The products are marked by a green blob, denoting plastic or paper which will be used again. Manufacturers congratulated themselves privately on finding a way round the new law, which boosted sales among the environmentally conscious and also gave German goods protection against foreign competitors, who could not be part of the scheme.

Bonn is the first town in the west to be equipped with the yellow bins, which quickly became well-used. But customers have quickly become suspicious that manufacturers are using the system to introduce price rise well above the inflation rate of 4.2 per cent.

Pensioners have been writing in to complain to newspapers. One said: "Mustard up from DM1.59 to DM1.79 a tube. That's a 12.5 per cent increase." Another moaned: "Margarine now costs me DM1.69 instead of DM1.49. That's 13.3 per cent more."

The traders' federation insists that no more than two pennings is added to the price of any product to pay for the scheme, and that higher prices are "pure coincidence". But Thomas Schlier, spokesman of the German consumers' association, is sure that traders are using every opportunity to raise prices. He says that consumers will abandon green-spot products and return to those in unrecyclable packaging if prices are not cut.

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Hollywood musclemen upstages panicky president in run-up to crucial New Hampshire primary

Bush moves to rally shaky troops

The president is trying to open his campaign with a bang and not as a wimp, Martin Fletcher writes from Goffstown, New Hampshire

GEORGE Bush's half-mile-long motorcade swept into this small rural community of 14,000 at the weekend. At the end of a meet-the-people session at the Mountain View Middle School his audience stomped and screamed in wild excitement. Unfortunately it was not the president who had bought them to their feet, but the surprise appearance of Arnold Schwarzenegger, the pin-up actor.

Less than a year ago, having crushed Saddam Hussein, Mr Bush enjoyed peerless global stature. Yesterday and on Saturday he cut an almost pathetic figure, rushing around depressed New Hampshire in a panicky attempt to shore up his lukewarm support before tomorrow's critical first primary.

To lend his insipid appearances some zest, the President of the United States was compelled to import a Hollywood star who proceeded to upstage him. "Pump up," Mr Bush's vote, demanded Schwarzenegger. Tell Patrick Buchanan "hasta la vista, baby," urged the Terminator, stealing a line from his films. But the presence of this muscular hunk seemed merely to point up the "wimp factor" that has returned with a vengeance to dog Mr Bush.

It is hard to overstate the state's disappointment with the man whose White House bid it rescued in 1988. Mr Bush will almost certainly beat Mr Buchanan, his conservative nemesis, but Republicans will vote for him not with conviction but from a sense of duty and a fear of something worse.

Despite the huge advantages of incumbency, Mr Bush will be lucky to get 60 per cent of the vote and will have been severely chastened in the process. Mr Buchanan, with his rapier wit, revels in Mr Bush's

discomfort, brutally deriding his party leader. At a high-voltage rally on Saturday night, he scoffed at "King George's hollow army". Nine weeks ago the White House dismissed him as a "gnat", he said, but "now they have brought in Air Force One to do battle with it".

Hundreds of supporters chanted "Read My Lips - No Second Term". They sported outsize plastic lips in mockery of the 1988 "No New Taxes" campaign pledge that Mr Bush reneged on two years later. The contrast between the two events could not have been greater. Mr Buchanan electrified his young supporters. He worked their passions like the consummate professional performer he is. He invited them to rally behind his unabashedly American First banner and they did.

The people of Goffstown attended the Bush meeting to see their president, not necessarily to support him. Their questions reflected their social and economic malaise. A defensive Mr Bush donned ill-fitting, conservative clothes, blamed Congress for America's domestic woes, and bemoaned the "attack dog ads" of opponents he accused of spreading "outrageous lies".

To a people desperate for leadership he offered no vision and no compelling reason to vote for him save preventing "liberal Democrats" from recapturing the White House. "I heard nothing that impressed me," said Bob Holden, a financial controller. "I was more interested in Schwarzenegger," said Kelly Fuller, a dietitian. "He's just not the Ronald Reagan we hoped he would be," said Brian Lineham, a missile technician.

In the town centre Linda's Diner posted a sign saying "Welcome, George Bush. We don't serve



Losing battle: Bill Clinton, in Manchester, New Hampshire, trying to revive his campaign, battered by charges of adultery and draft-dodging

Broccoli," but the veneer of politeness concealed the discontent within. Kim Mobley Hall, a bright young waitress, told how her husband had lost his white-collar job, they had no health insurance, and her meagre wages alone were supporting a family of five. "The most terrifying thing is two years ago we were upper middle-class but in a couple more months we could be homeless."

The Bush-Buchanan battle has split the New Hampshire Republican party, with barely two-thirds of the party's state congressmen supporting the president, and could do the same nationally. Mr Buchanan is attracting money, has momentum, and will do well enough in New Hampshire to carry his campaign south.

As the campaign reached its climax, the five Democratic candidates spent yesterday preparing for a live televised debate last night that promised to make them or break them.

Bush picks, page 1



Swimming ahead: Paul Tsongas surfaces for a word with the press, having stolen the lead from Mr Clinton

Killer Dahmer is sane, jury rules

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN NEW YORK

A WISCONSIN judge is expected to pass 15 consecutive life sentences against Jeffrey Dahmer today after the jury decided that the chocolate factory worker was sane when he murdered and dismembered 15 boys and men in one of the most grotesque killing sprees in American history.

Relatives of the victims wept as the Milwaukee jury decided by a majority verdict on Saturday night to reject the argument of Dahmer's lawyer that "this is not an evil man. This was a sick man whose sickness rose to the level of mental illness."

Psychiatric experts for the defence argued that Dahmer suffered from necrophilia, a sexual attraction to corpses. The verdict ran counter to the trend in American society towards absolving defendants of responsibility in favour of psychiatric explanations.

Jurors have been offered free psychiatric counselling after hearing three weeks of gruesome testimony, including graphic accounts of how Dahmer slit open his victims, had sex with their corpses and ate their body parts. Large audiences tuned into the live broadcast of the trial on the court television network and local radio stations.

Opposing the defence psychiatrists were experts who argued that Dahmer was in full control of himself and chose his victims, mainly non-white homosexual youths, carefully in order to avoid detection. He targeted men without cars, for example, because that reduced the risk of their being traced.

"It isn't the killing he takes pleasure in, it's the sex," said Michael McCann, the prosecutor. Dahmer killed "so he could have a couple more days of sexual pleasure with the bodies".

Dahmer confessed to murdering 17 men and boys, but pleaded not guilty through insanity to the 15 cases on which he was specifically charged. He faces a separate charge in Ohio for his first murder, committed in 1978.

His spree ended last July when one of his intended victims escaped and called police. Only months before, the police had returned another victim, a Laotian boy aged 14, to Dahmer's flat after he ran screaming for help to neighbours.

Trial by Hollywood, page 12

US, Turkey and Iran jostle in Central Asia

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW AND ANATOL LIEVEN IN BAKU

JAMES Baker, the American Secretary of State, pledged yesterday to throw his country's weight behind the promotion of civil liberties in the new states of Central Asia, where the West, Turkey and Iran are jostling to fill the vacuum left by Soviet power.

As he headed for Moscow from the conservative republic of Uzbekistan, he also indicated that, despite its tough stated preconditions, Washington will not wait for a perfect human rights record before opening embassies in the former Soviet republics.

In Tashkent, where dissidents complain of widespread repression, Abdulrahim Pulatov, a leading opposition figure, told Mr Baker that full diplomatic links would help the democratic cause. The American visitor seemed to sympathise with this argument, saying that US diplomacy "can be a force for seeing they move in the direction of political freedom".

Uzbekistan, meanwhile, joined Turkmenia and Azerbaijan in adhering yesterday to the Economic Co-operation Organisation (ECO), which groups Turkey, Pakistan and Iran to form a loose unit of non-Arab Muslim states stretching over a vast expanse of Asia. President Rafsanjani of Iran, welcoming the new members to an ECO summit in Tehran, said the expanded group could "form a powerful political economic body in the region and present themselves as a world power".

Each of the ECO's former members has its own reasons to welcome the advent of the Central Asian states. Pakistan, and in particular its generals, has long complained of a "lack of room to

manoeuvre" in the face of possible attack from India, and dreamed of gaining "a strategic depth" through an alliance with supportive Muslim states to the west. Yet Pakistan's role in Central Asia is likely to be hindered by the political chaos in Afghanistan, lying in between.

Mr Baker's tour, during which he won assurances from Tajikistan over the export of uranium, has been prompted in part by nightmare scenarios under which Pakistan and Iran shop for nuclear scientists and even missiles in Central Asia. Apart from economic and security, Iran is also motivated by religious zeal. Fear of fundamentalism spreading has in turn prompted Washington to encourage Turkey in its bid for a leading role in the region's politics.

For centuries before its conquest by the Russian empire, the region was part of Persia's cultural sphere, although most inhabitants were Turkic. But cultural links between Shia Iran and the Sunni Muslim — and heavily secularised states — of Central Asia may have been weakened by Tehran's Islamic revolution. "It would take an enormous effort on Iran's part to establish itself as a leading player," a Western diplomat said. "Religion, nationality and economic weakness all work against it."

This leaves Turkey, whose secular nationalism and democratic aspirations could make it a much more powerful influence. But many experts tend to discount the emergence of any powerful new bloc in Central Asia and fear that the very lack of any unifying vision will encourage nationalist forces to tear each other apart.

Pledge boosts Kim's succession chance

FROM REUTERS IN TOKYO

FRESH indication that President Kim Il Sung, who turns 80 in April, may soon relinquish absolute power came yesterday when North Korea's top party and state organs swore a fawning 50th birthday oath of allegiance to Kim Jong Il, the son of the "Great Leader".

Hailing the younger Kim as "the Dear Leader of our party and our people and the supreme commander of our revolutionary armed forces", the statement pledged "the highest glory and warmest congratulations carrying

boundless respect and loyalty of the entire party members and people and the people's army men and officers."

The younger Kim was first named his father's heir in the 1970s. There have been periodic reports of high-level opposition to such a dynastic succession. But acute speculation was triggered last December by the younger Kim's appointment as supreme commander of the people's army. Since then Pyongyang's propaganda machine has waged a massive campaign to heap praise on him as he approached 50.

Official determination to make the country's 22 million people share in the joy of the occasion was underlined last week when President Kim proclaimed big rises in wages, pensions and scholarships. Wages of workers, technicians and office employees are to rise by 43.4 per cent.

Yesterday's pledge of allegiance came in a joint congratulatory message from the central committee of the Workers' (communist) party, the central military committee, the central people's committee and the cabinet.

Kim Il Sung: incentive to share in party's joy

Mobuto troops kill 13 at church rally

FROM REUTERS IN KINSHASA

AT LEAST 13 people were killed when security forces opened fire on demonstrators in Zaire's capital yesterday, according to Kiteenge Yezu, the information minister.

Witnesses said troops loyal to President Mobutu had broken up an illegal pro-democracy protest organised by Roman Catholic priests. Kiteenge said the government had confirmation of 13 fatalities and had asked Zaire's Red Cross to help treat the wounded.

Thousands of Catholics and other Christians had poured out of churches after Sunday morning services, singing psalms and clutching bibles and rosaries. Led by priests and opposition politicians in what had been intended to be a peaceful protest, they called for the immediate resumption of Zaire's national conference.

Mobutu's embattled government suspended the pro-democracy forum last month when it became clear that it was dominated by anti-Mobutu delegates. Yesterday's protest had been banned on Saturday by Kinshasa's governor and was not backed by

the Roman Catholic primate, Cardinal Frederic Essou. Mr Kiteenge said two Belgians were among several priests arrested by police and soldiers. "The order was immediately given to expel them from Zaire," he added.

Troops occupied churches after the carnage, refusing access even to the clergy. Witnesses said a policeman trapped by a crowd in the Lemba district had been burned to death after being doused in petrol.

The death toll was the heaviest in a single day since the start of open challenges to Mobutu's authoritarian rule 18 months ago. Western governments have been putting pressure on Mr Mobutu to introduce democratic reforms or risk plunging the vast country of 40 million people into civil war.

The protest on Sunday was organised by radical young clerics who espouse the "liberation theology" pioneered by priests in Latin America. Led by Abbot Jose Mpundu, they came close in their sermons to advocating a popular uprising to put an end to Mobutu's 27-year rule.

Japan gives Jagger a jumpy flashback

Mick Jagger, the Rolling Stones singer, has been refused entry into Japan because of a drug arrest 23 years ago. He was confined to a hotel at Narita airport, Tokyo, last night so that he could appeal to the justice ministry today for a reversal of the decision.

Jagger, aged 48, was allowed to enter Japan for performances in March 1968 and in February 1990 after immigration consulted the foreign ministry. The vocalist has been kept on a Japanese immigration blacklist since 1969, when he and his then girlfriend, Marianne Faithfull, were arrested in London and charged with possession of marijuana. Jagger was fined £200. Faithfull was acquitted.

Hazel Hawke, aged 62, the wife of the former Australian prime minister, Bob Hawke,

was admitted to St Vincent's hospital, Sydney, for removal of a tumour at the base of her brain. "It is expected that the tumour will be benign," Mr Hawke said.

Four months earlier, doctors had removed a benign ovarian cyst. Mrs Hawke had recently complained of feeling tired and run-down. The Hawkes have been contemplating their future since Paul Keating, the former Treasurer, toppled Mr Hawke in a Labor party challenge in December.

Kitchen flagstones which were lovingly scrubbed by generations of northern women are to grace The Queen's London home, Buckingham Palace. The slabs, rescued from hundreds of Coronation Street-type homes during inner-city demolition, will be used as replacements for a flagged courtyard.

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What Kinnock really believes

Labour has embraced continental social democracy, says Peter Riddell

A frequent Tory claim is that Labour does not believe in anything: that the dumping of its previous commitments has left the party rudderless, guided only by the ebbs and flows of public opinion (this is often combined with the contradictory charge that Labour has not changed at all). In fact, Labour has arrived at a distinctive ideological position, clearer in many ways than the position the Tories affect as they manoeuvre over the Thatcher legacy.

Few British politicians, thankfully, talk in ideological terms. I have never heard John Smith mention Gramsci, and I strongly suspect John Major spends considerably more time reading the works of Neville Cardus than those of Roger Scruton. But ideologies still exist, if only as rationalisations of policies adopted on pragmatic grounds.

So, whether they articulate it or not, most of Labour's present leaders operate in a different intellectual framework from that of the late 1970s and from that of the Tories. The key is Labour's embrace of Europe. This is deeper than merely supporting a more integrated Community and an activist Commission. It reflects a conscious adoption of a European political model in which the state sets the terms for the operation of markets. This contrasts with the neo-liberal model of free-market capitalism.

Labour's new approach has been given a theoretical twist in *Next Left*, an agenda for the 1990s, a pamphlet published today by the Institute for Public Policy Research, the stimulating left-wing think tank. The authors accept that the traditional social democratic state came over time to be rigid and static, with public sector failure symbolised by tower blocks and British Leyland. They argue that the Thatcherite reaction has failed: "that there is nothing self-regulating about the market, that the limits of individual endeavour and entrepreneurship are as pronounced as their strengths, and that the dogmas of *laissez-faire* are a recipe for accelerated economic decline and intensified social injustice".

The Institute's alternative is not a revival of the traditional mixed economy, what the authors describe as a free-market system with a state sponsored safety-net for the economic losers. Instead, it proposes "a close interrelationship, weaving together social interest and market dynamism". Stripped of its verbiage this means an active state intervening in the labour and financial markets and encouraging industrial change, all within an integrated Europe.

In some respects, of course, this sounds like a reheating of the Wilson message of 1963-64 with the addition of a continental sauce. There is hardly any mention of that indigestible pair, the trade unions and nationalised industries. The danger of this approach is that the gains in industrial performance made

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

since 1979 will be undermined by "the re-regulation of the labour market" and similar actions that will benefit the regulator and the lawyer.

But the Tories cannot merely dismiss this Labour case as new paint on an old ship, pointing to the rejection of the social democratic middle way by the new democracies of central Europe and the third world. They must also explain why the "economic miracle" of 1988 turned into recession, record house repossessions and City scandals. Were Thatcherism and the Anglo-American approach fundamentally flawed? And is, therefore, an alternative European social democratic approach justified?

The long-running dispute over monetary policy between Mrs Thatcher and Nigel Lawson was partly responsible for the boom running out of control, but there were other policy errors, notably the top-sided deregulation of the financial system. But these mistakes, serious though they have turned out to be, do not mean that the basic thrust of de-regulation and privatisation, the heart of Thatcherism, was wrong. No one can now doubt the advantages of selling council houses.

Even in the public services, Labour has accepted some Tory changes. The question is more one of balance. This is where the Tories have their own ideological debate, between Thatcherism and one-nation Toryism, or Chicago versus Christian Democracy, as one minister describes it. Characteristically, Mr Major sympathises with both approaches, free markets on the economy and traditional Tory on the public services, as will be seen in the party's election manifesto — what Kenneth Clarke last week described as Thatcherism with a human face. But the debate has only been deferred, not resolved, and might be the focus for a battle, especially over Europe, if the Tories lose.

Critics of both Tory and Labour leadership see the European model as another example of the blurring of party differences. But there are many variants of this model, and differences between Christian and social democrats. Chancellor Kohl does not always see eye to eye with Jacques Delors; indeed, the Christian Democrats in Germany have reacted to Maastricht by debating whether the social market should give more emphasis to the market side.

Moreover, Labour's European model is also under question as social democratic parties struggle to find a new role in Sweden, Germany and France. Paradoxically, Labour may have turned itself into a mainstream European social democratic party just when continental parties have become unsure about their own direction.

The law of the entertainment industry prevails in American courts, writes Charles Bremner

Trial by Hollywood

After watching a few American trials, you start to get the hang of the game. To win, the lawyers must simply pace their case to the rhythms of television drama and cast themselves as the star or the genial host of a talk show. You score by drawing on the images and plots from *Perry Mason*, *LA Law*, *Night Court* and all those other television series that have given Americans their extraordinary familiarity with the courtroom.

In the Kennedy-Smith rape trial, Roy Black, the defence attorney, won the day at the outset by connecting emotionally with the jury as the genial presenter and invoking the familiar stereotypes: the wronged young Dr Kildare Kennedy-Smith, the vengeful husband, a fruitcake from *Fatal Attraction*, and the supportive family led by Uncle Ted, the lovable rogue from countless sitcoms. Moira Lasch, the prosecutor, had no such storyline and therefore no chance.

particularly since Judge Mary Lupo cast herself as the wise-cracking Italian mama.

Another take on the dramatic stereotype could be found this week in the federal court of Brooklyn, where John Gott, "the Dapper Don", is playing hard to the mythology of gangsterdom. Silly and menacing, Gott's personality has taken over Judge Leo Glasser's court, as if the plot was a private joke between him and his public. When Gott dismissed the judge and the earnest young prosecutors as a bunch of "fags", the crowd roared. The prosecutors, a grey lot in comparison, must fight hard to prove the merit of their murder charges.

The virtuoso lesson in the short-attention-span courtroom style

was delivered by Greg Garrison, the freelance prosecutor of Mike Tyson on rape charges in Indianapolis. Greg, as the jury got to know him, followed every rule in the scriptwriter's book. He established a plot and a lovable, larger-than-life character for himself, slumping, hands in pockets, on the defence table as he chatted about "Destiny", as he always called Ms Washington, the accuser of Tyson. Europeans and the cynical east-coasters in the media room groaned as Mr Garrison hammed it up with the hyperbole of a sentiment-soaked television commercial, but the Midwestern jury was eating from his hand.

If there is any lesson for American lawyers in the recent headline trials, it is that old-style arguing

does not work in an age of sound-bites and storylines. The proof was provided by Tyson's lawyer, Vincent Fuller, a classical counsel in the rhetorical tradition who visibly bored the jury with a plodding but logical chain of thought.

Emotion is also ruling the game when it comes to expert testimony. Confused juries tend to go with the best dramatic performance. In Milwaukee, a battalion of psychiatrists and other learned types duelled with each other over the question of the sanity of Jeffrey Dahmer, the confessed cannibal and murderer of 17 men. In Philadelphia, an expert in sooth-saying recently convinced a jury to award \$1 million dollars in damages to a fortune-teller who claimed that a body scan

had destroyed her psychic powers. It would be misleading to suggest that all this means American juries do not take their business seriously. They do so to a fault, agonising through replays of evidence with such intensity that they burst into tears and receive free counselling. After the verdict in Indianapolis, the jury talked to the cameras straight from their box, reviewing the performance of the cast as if they had just taken part in an episode of *Perry Mason*.

While the public waits for the next episode — Tyson's sentencing and a year's worth of appeals — the Hollywood agents are buying up the story, and the cast basks in its new celebrity. Ms Washington, depicted to the jury as an anonymous innocent only interested in justice, has put herself on national television and magazine covers and Mr Garrison, who based his case on denouncing the culture of celebrity, has hit the television big-time.

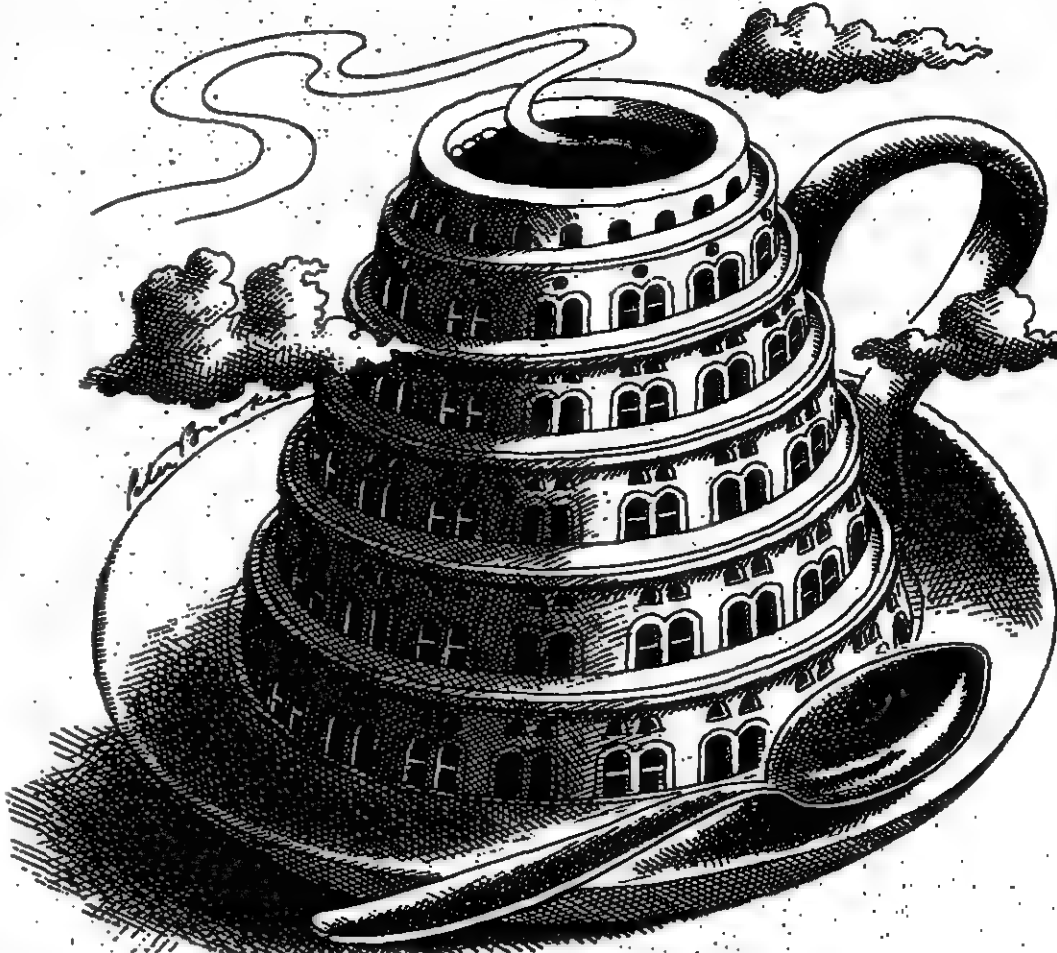
Bernard Levin takes coffee and comfort in a gadgetary Tower of Babel

Let us talk of gadgets. I am not yet ready to reveal the secret of perpetual motion, but gadgets are another, albeit lesser, matter. I once saw for sale in a shop, a gadget which was made of solid brass (presumably there were golden ones for the rich), about the size and shape of a smallish cigar. It didn't do anything, as far as I could see, and after I had walked round it three times I asked the lady behind the counter what it was for. She had the decency to blush as she told me that it was for dialling telephone numbers (we had not got push-button phones in those days, and she blushed more when she demonstrated it: you put the thing in the holes in the dial, one by one, and turned the dial with it. In other words, someone had invented an artificial finger, big deal).

The next such surprise was an electric breadknife; I didn't buy one of those, either, because I reckoned that if I got so old and enfeebled that I could not cut a slice of bread without assistance, I would have lost all my teeth anyway, and be living on porridge.

But away from the lunatic fringe of gadgets, I am a sucker for more or less useful ones, which accounts for the fact that I have just bought two more. I got them both in the same shop, though in very different departments, but they were both gleaming and irresistible.

One was for use in the kitchen, the other in the bathroom. The first was a machine devoted to making coffee: it is a considerable expert when coffee is under discussion. For 40 years I have been a connoisseur of that glorious beverage (it is there a religion which worships coffee, and if so where do I sign?), that boon to the thirsty, that dream of any lover of palpitations, that nectar which will satisfy anyone with a soul capable of doing true justice to the glorious scent which fills the breakfast room, and would fill the whole street if the windows were open.



I have hopes for my machine: it is simply itself to use, it had better be, because in all manners mechanical I am an official state-registered nincompoop, and I would anyway have cut off both my hands with the electric breadknife years ago; so far it has worked impeccably.

Yes, yes, I am coming to the point, don't try to hurry me. For I must now describe the other device, the one in the bathroom. It is, in plain English, an electric toothbrush, though it is actually called by a ridiculously fancy name. There was a vogue, a few years ago, for electric toothbrushes with heads that went round, but because they worked off batteries the makers could never work out how to make the toothbrush go round forcefully enough to do its job: as soon as you pressed the head against a tooth it stopped revolving, and of course it would have been impossible to make really safe a toothbrush that

worked direct from the mains. ("Mummy, Daddy's dead." "Good gracious, so he is: how did that happen?" "Well, he put the toothbrush in his mouth and switched on, then he made a funny noise and fell down." "Well, well.")

The new device, however, though you charge it from the mains supply (a razor socket will do), is detached from contact with it, and however hard you press its head against your teeth, it still goes whirring round, so powerful is its whirr. Both devices come from Germany. The coffee-maker is from Krups; surely it should have a double b, but I suppose the firm has delicately changed its name, ever so slightly but ever so significantly, lest it remind people of a certain age, like me... of the time when Krups delivered enormous numbers of very different devices to these islands, usually in the middle of the night and quite certainly without ringing the

doorbell. The toothbrush comes from Braun.

All such gawdaws these days have instruction booklets, few if any of which I can understand. There are publishers today who make an enormous amount of money by commissioning books which explain the explanations that come with computers, and I sometimes wish one of those firms would do the same for ordinary appliances. Anyway, the point is that these machines are sold internationally, and therefore have instructions in many languages: I have just realised that if I drink enough coffee, and brush my teeth sufficiently frequently, I shall become virtually omnilingual.

Well, do you know the Portuguese for "hinged lid"? It is "tampa basculante", and I would never have known it without the help of Krups. But once you have started you will find yourself in a kind of fairyland, where your own tongue strolls through a wonderful

arcade of others, many of them of a truly memorable strangeness.

Which of you can tell me what the Danes call a "Vandstand-smaler"? Who will not thrill to the Spanish "Jarra de cristal", though it is merely a glass jug? Put the Dutch and the Italians face to face, and see how soon they start to sing respectively "Snoeropering" and "Alloggiamento per il cavo", though they both mean the same thing. For that matter, what is a Turk a "Siak turma plakast", is to a Finn a "Lämpölevy".

The Italians win, of course: we are warned "not to clean the appliance whilst it is connected to the electricity supply", but in the land of Dante and Verdi the warning comes in the form of "non pulire l'apparecchio mentre è collegato alla corrente", and when the French, obviously in a bad temper, cut short the necessary explanation with a snarl of "le témoin s'allume", the Italians, with all the time in the world, murmur "l'indicatore luminoso segnala quando l'apparecchio è pronto per l'uso".

Fifteen languages are accommodated in this Tower of Babel, and only a monoglot Esperantist would be unable to make himself understood when he wanted coffee. (That reminds me: I once had a Swedish phrasebook containing the immortal exchange, "Who is this lady?" "She is my aunt." "She is not very tall, is she?")

If there, I wonder, something larger we can make of these extraordinary machines? If we can all make coffee without hating one another, cannot the statesmen of the world achieve a similar harmony? And if a man who wants nothing more than a toothbrush, and while acquiring one discovers that "amachable brushheads" are also "Aufschäbbsen", "Capillos Inscrutabiles", "baselborstels", and "Vaihtokarjat", to name but a few, cannot the carmen fall silent at last?

Not yet, I fear; I have just learnt from the Braun toothbrush that three languages have been dropped from the list that adorned the coffee-maker: Turkish, Arabic and Hebrew, an unmistakable and offensive assertion that Turks, Arabs and Jews never clean their teeth. "Chiz kullanimadigi saman, kablosu chazin tabanina yerestirilir", which means — at least I think it does — "Trust the Krauts to ruin everything."

...and moreover



MATTHEW PARRIS

When your secretary does not care for what you have written, it comes as a disappointment. Mrs Wright and I see eye to eye on much, but she does, on the whole, prefer Alan Coren. Though she sometimes approves, her equally common reaction to my own literary efforts is "so what?"

It's a good test. My colleagues in the *Times* room at Westminster put the same thought differently. Set out (they say) the news you suppose worthy of publication, and preface it with the exclamation "guess what, Mum?" Ask yourself whether the news justifies the exclamation. If it does, scrap the exclamation and print the news. If it does not, scrap both.

What follows, then, will have Mrs Wright and my colleagues shaking their heads in despair. I am about to share with you an insight that fails the "so what?" test before it starts, and to which "guess what, Mum!" could be applied only in sarcasm. But it has troubled and amazed me all weekend and I must get it off my chest. Sorry, Mrs Wright, but, here goes...

Why are Adam's apples not an object of sexual interest? I approach this, you see, with a fresh eye. Only last Thursday did I learn that men's Adam's apples are visible and women's are not. I never noticed. Now I've spent three days in incredulous confirmation of the hypothesis. Apparently the rest of Britain has known it since infancy, but nobody told me. As

a child I changed schools whenever my father was posted to a new country, and perhaps left my junior school in Nicosia when the class was about to do Adam's apples, and reached my junior school in southern Rhodesia when they'd just done them.

This was the way I missed out the decimal system from my education, with no ill-effects whatever. But here, I discovered on Thursday, was a more important gap, and one I feel most keenly. Suddenly I've started staring at people's throats, and realising that this amazing thing is true. It's incredible! You can't see women's at all, but every fellow you meet has a visible Adam's apple.

Now, run through (under your breath, please) some of the other physical differences between the sexes. And, having completed a checklist of the obvious bits and pieces we variously have or haven't, move on to some of the secondary differences, too: a gruff voice, rough hands, manly stubble and narrow hips, of which a man might be proud: the softer tones, delicate touch, smoother skin and generous thighs a woman might be pleased to possess... each physical distinguishing mark — slight, banal or plumb stupid as it might be when compared with natural wonders like the Victoria Falls or Kilimanjaro — has been sung by poets, celebrated in love story, or sniggered at by pubescent teenagers.

Except the Adam's apple. As

an object of adoration or arousal it is, I grant, not an obviously beautiful or interesting thing — but nor, frankly, are some of the others. We make of them what we can. Yet of the Adam's apple we make nothing.

I have a rather prominent one. But do I hear schoolgirls giggling as I pass? "Wooden! Look at that Adam's apple!" Muffled up against the winter's day, do I see surreptitious eyes diving hungrily for my scarf-line, hopeful of catching a glimpse, trying to discern its shape beneath the home-knitting? Do I swallow provocatively in the candlelight, giving my Adam's apple a coy little up-and-down y-y-y-y? If a girl's party frock can be off-the-shoulder, can a boy's party-sweater be off-the-Adam's-apple? Can a collar have cleavage?

As a woman passes a building site, do construction workers whistle and call "Gedda loadde that neck"? Do we eye a turtle-neck sweater warily, suspicious lest the lady be hiding a less than classic throat? Would a chap in a Mills & Boon novel run his fingers, in the dark, over the heroine's neck and whisper his admiration for its geometry? "Ruler-straight, my love!" "Oh Gerald! Not even the thinnest bump?"

No. Nobody mentions it. Well, guess what, Mum! Here is a sexual code I never cracked in 40 years. Here is an adornment I didn't know I had until Thursday. Life has just begun. And, yes, I can hear you Mrs Wright... "So what?"

MacBeth's last book

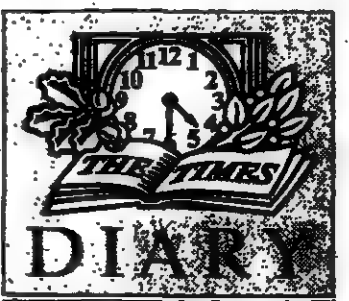
A FEW days before his death yesterday, George MacBeth discovered that his last novel would be published in the autumn. As he lay in hospital with motor neurone disease his wife Penny read him a letter from his publisher congratulating him on an excellent book.

Giles Gordon, literary agent of the poet and novelist for 17 years, says: "The novel, which is called *An Allegory of Spencer*, is set in a united Ireland and looks at how Britain and Ireland can survive together in the 1990s. It is one of his best novels for many years."

MacBeth's publisher and friend of 30 years, Tom Rosenthal, the chairman of André Deutsch, says: "The novel is a moving and intricate portrait of the tensions of a united Ireland. The hero, Spencer, worked for the British before unification and in the novel wants to lead a quiet life in Ireland. But even from the past conspire to haunt him. All the old animosities die hard."

Rosenthal, who was given his first job in the BBC by MacBeth, says of him: "I think he was one of the most generous figures in the literary world. He praised others and, as the producer of BBC Radio's *Poetry Now*, was a great patron of young poets."

MacBeth's passions in life included hamburgers. Dannie Absie, the former president of the Poetry Society, says: "I remember George came back from a visiting academic post in America saying that the greatest thing about America was its hamburgers. This never quite squared with his lifestyle; he loved large dilapidated houses where he would host fancy dress parties. He was quite conscious of clothes and was a bit of a dandy."



● The only two British tycoons to have taken on the might of British Airways had a surprise encounter at the weekend. When Sir Freddie Laker turned up at a reunion of his former staff he was startled to be greeted by Richard Branson who promptly announced that Virgin's newest plane would be called Spirit of Sir Freddie.

Goodman ahead

ELINOR GOODMAN has emerged as favourite to become the BBC's political editor, the first woman to do the job, when John Cole retires after the election. Insiders say that Goodman, the political editor of Channel 4 News, faces a straight fight with John Sergeant, the BBC's chief political correspondent. Both have been sounded out by Tony Hall, director of news and current affairs.

Goodman has built up a formidable reputation on the Westminster scene, and the BBC would welcome a woman in the job. But many in the corporation did not take kindly to her performance at last year's Labour party conference in Brighton when she scooped them with the government's decision not to call a November poll. Although the Beeb had several hundred staff in town, Goodman ran with the story first. The field for Cole's job has

slimmed down after a number of other leading contenders said they were not interested. James Naughtie, presenter of Radio 4's *World at One*, was informally sounded out but BBC correspondents say he does not want the post. He is happy in his present job, which gives him freedom to make other programmes, such as a recent series on opera and on the US elections.

Low notes

THE frailty of the Russian rouble was exposed last week in the first leg of a cultural exchange between Covent Garden and the Kirov in St Petersburg. Ticket prices soared by five times at what is now called the Maryinsky Theatre for *Otello* in the acclaimed Royal Opera production starring Plácido Domingo. The Russian audience was also treated to two further Covent Garden productions, both with



a strong Russian flavour: Mussorgsky's *Boris Godunov* and Prokofiev's *The Fiery Angel*. In April the favour will be returned when 250 Maryinsky Theatre members will perform at Covent Garden in a "Welcome St Petersburg" royal gala with the Princess of Wales in attendance. Grand tier tickets will cost £500. To see Plácido Domingo in St

Petersburg last week cost the equivalent of 50 pence at today's exchange rate.

Ship to shore

THE LAST desperate plea sent out from the Titanic as it was sinking is to be auctioned by Christie's this April on the 80th anniversary of the disaster. The message on April 14, 1912, reads: "Sinking. Wants immediate assistance. Within two hours 1,500 people, more than half the passengers and crew, had drowned. The cable, which was used in the British enquiry into the sinking, is part of a collection of 448 Marconi radio signals that Christie's hopes will fetch more than £30,000.

The SOS contrasts poignantly with cheery messages sent by passengers early in the crossing. One said: "Arrive Wednesday. Titanic maiden voyage. Meet me. Vessel worth seeing."

● We may yet get to see some of the 34 hours of film that did not make last week's 40th royal anniversary film tribute, Elizabeth R. Eddie Mirzoeff, who made the film, says: "It would take unusual circumstances but I can't say it will never be shown if the purpose is serious." The material is stored in the BBC's "royal vault" at Brentford, a treasure trove of material, seen and unseen, covering the entire 40-year reign. Political historians are more interested in one of the more poignant unused moments, the arrival of Mrs Thatcher at the palace to tender her resignation. "I would consult with the palace, but if Mrs Thatcher was happy for it to be shown that would count very strongly," says Mirzoeff. "But please, he adds, 'can you make it clear the so-called bugs we used were simply radio mikes? I don't want anyone thinking we recorded Her Majesty surreptitiously.'"



APRIL VERSUS MAY

May 7 remains the best date for the Tory party to go to the country. It is the best date for the nation. It would enable a finance bill to be fully enacted and other important legislation to be completed. It would mean a convenient coincidence of national and local elections. The present phoney war could calm down until Easter and then begin in earnest.

For the Tory party, the attractions of May are overwhelming. April is always a cruel month. May is nearer to thrice-blessed June. Another month would be another month to score debating points off Labour, as the Conservatives are now doing with ease, though as yet with scant benefit in the opinion polls. Above all, May would permit whatever budget plot is being hatched to come to some electoral fruition.

The budget is now towering alarmingly over the Tories' election strategy. Win or lose, the budget will be held responsible. Nothing so beguiles British politicians as budget psychology. Next month's is being foretold as a "budget for jobs", as the defining budget of post-Thatcher Toryism. Party expectations are near hysterical. If the unique selling proposition of Mr Major's party is of a low tax party portraying Labour as a high tax one, then this budget is to emerge as the be-all and end-all of low tax budgets, and to blaze with the public sector borrowing requirement. This is no time for ideology, this is war.

Such an approach remains risky. Poll evidence is that floating voters, thanks to Mrs Thatcher, are less concerned with high taxes than with the poor state of public services and infrastructure. They would even accept higher taxes to improve the latter. Tory managers boldly claim that this is merely what floating voters say to pollsters. In the privacy of the polling booth, the elector feels his or her wallet and votes for low taxes. They mean more money for consumption in the short term, a boost to the economy and a positive "feel good factor".

Whatever else may be said of this strategy,

it surely needs time to take effect. A blatantly give-away budget will be greeted with hoots of derision by all but the Tory faithful. First reactions to budgets are always partisan, to no budget more than this. In the short term, Norman Lamont can hardly win. A cautious budget would dismay his own side, an incautious one will invite the scorn of his opponents — not to mention its impact on his longer term economic policy. Such is the corner into which his leader has painted him.

The least Mr Major can do for himself and his Chancellor is give the March 10 budget a full month to mature before putting it to the campaign test. He can let the cynicism die down, let the money sleep into pay packets, into higher spending, stockpiling and investment orders. He can let a small of better times reach the nostrils of the private sector, not just the public one to which he is now so generous. He can ensure that departments begin procuring whatever infrastructure contracts the Treasury is at this moment being bludgeoned into conceding. He can also get the poll tax out of the way.

For all this, May is fast dissolving as an option. The election is confidently expected to be on April 9, not because Mr Major has yet decided it or because he believes it to be the best day, but because all the world has told him so. A sort of election campaign is up and running. The date has been ringed. Ministerial trips have been cancelled. The media is in full alert. Mr Major and his party chairman, Chris Patten, are like a betrothed couple who thought that they had yet to announce their wedding date, yet seem impelled towards April 9 by events beyond their control.

Perhaps they believe they cannot lose in April. If so their confidence would be more convincing if they said so now and got on with it. As it is they seem, as their critics say, like rabbits frozen in the headlights. John Major could still go for May. But he must do so this week, or April 9 it will surely be.

LAWYERS' PARADISE

The Times continues its series of editorials on Thatcherism's "forgotten supply side", the professions. This week, the lawyers; next week, academics.

For a moment in 1989 Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, seemed to have joined forces with Dick, the Ashford butcher, to whom Shakespeare gave the memorable line: "The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers." Lord Mackay's initial proposals for the reform of the legal profession were greeted by the majority of barristers (and to a lesser extent, solicitors) with dismay and disbelief, and then with a fierce resolve that they would fight him.

Lord Mackay's green paper was intended primarily as an assault on monopoly and restrictive practice. He wished to break the de facto monopolies of the Bar Council on the supply of advocates and of the Law Society on the supply of solicitors. The traditional restrictions on the way legal work is handled, such as the ban on multi-disciplinary partnerships which would link lawyers with, say, accountants, would have been outlawed. The sharp division of the profession into two branches, solicitors and advocates, would have been dissolved.

Virtually the only detail which was welcomed was this last, and then only by the Law Society on behalf of that ten per cent of their 60,000 number who want to practise advocacy in the higher courts. The barristers were furious, and the solicitors too were unhappy at the threat to their own monopoly represented by Lord Mackay's plan to allow property conveyancing to be handled by non-solicitors.

Over the past three years such opposition, carried right up to the profession's most senior representatives in the House of Lords, has largely negated Lord Mackay's zeal. He has pushed through an end to the conveyancing monopoly, though the recession in property has made conveyancing less attractive to non-solicitors. The rules governing rights of audience to non-barristers are being ponderously debated by the Griffiths committee. But these are modest reforms. Lord Mackay was aiming at a much larger target, the exclusive organisation and supervision of the legal industry by the lawyers' two professional bodies: admission and training practices, finance, ethics, professional custom and practice, and complaints procedures. There it was he suffered his most severe defeat.

Lord Mackay wanted government-determined tests of competence which had to be passed before anybody was allowed to practise law and which, if passed, would allow anybody to practise. After admission, standards were to be upheld by regulation, and fees kept down by competition. As the customer rather than the provider became sovereign, value for money would become the dominant principle in the legal profession. The paraphernalia of barristers' dinners, wigs, benches, Inns of court and sets of chambers, would become mere decorative trappings. No longer would these be the roccoco foundations of an edifice of self-regulation which, the lawyers prided themselves, linked them in a communion of legal saints with the traditions of the great justices and attorneys of the past.

The lawyers' word for this corporate tradition was "ethos". The most bitter complaint against Lord Mackay was that he had neglected to show how the ethos of the legal profession would be preserved by government regulation, if the main vehicles for doing so hitherto, the Law Society and the Bar Council, were marginalised. Faith in this absorption of ethos by osmosis is common to learned professions, and applies equally in the armed services, universities, churches, even journalism. But it is nowhere more fiercely defended than among lawyers, and especially at the Bar.

Lord Mackay's ideological dismissal of the role of intermediate professional institutions, in this case the Law Society and the Bar Council, was a typical miscalculation of Thatcherism. It failed to realise that professional unions were far tougher than trade ones, not least within the Tory party. The Lord Chancellor's initial reluctance to compromise with legal sensibility undoubtedly contributed to his failure. His final package left radical lawyers disappointed.

Can anything be salvaged from Mackay? For now, though not for all time, his failure cannot be reversed. Having marched his troops up the hill and down, he cannot be expected again to embrace radical deregulation and competition as a treatment for professional ills. The focus now is on his critics among lawyers, and their political allies, to show that their preferred evolutionary reform "from within" can be made effective. The Law Society and Bar Council have a brief period to tidy their houses before the splits which Lord Mackay opened in their ranks become more bitter.

Many reforms of matters of detail, of which conveyancing and rights of audience were the most important, were agreed in the watering down of the Mackay green paper proposals, which, in the transition from green to white paper to draft bill to the 1990 Courts and Legal Services Act, grew ever more acceptable to the profession. It will be a year or two before these reforms are working, and it is too soon to judge their effect.

Meanwhile some new air has been let into the profession. The Bar has produced its "charter for the citizen in the courts". The Law Society is making "quality control" a watchword of its supervision of local legal services. That may raise the quality of advice and advocacy. But if the client is truly to be sovereign, he or she must have information on price and performance which is almost universally withheld. Scales of charges must be published. All bills should be itemised. The notion that it is ungentlemanly to negotiate a fee must be rejected as uncompetitive. For certain work, fee limits should be agreed in advance and tendering permitted.

Opportunities for paying fees on a speculative basis must be expanded. Contingency fees, where the lawyer takes a percentage of damages, are rightly treated with some suspicion in England and Wales (and even in Scotland) but lawyers may now agree with a client to work on the basis of receiving no fee or a smaller fee if they lose. If the profession made full use of this freedom, access to justice would be improved for many millions of people who do not now qualify for legal aid. The evils of "ambulance chasing" are for the courts and judges to obviate, not for restrictive practices to deny to clients.

Cheaper alternatives to litigation, notably by alternative dispute resolution (ADR), must become widely available. The Bar Council now supports more informal procedures for solving a disagreement, though they have not yet become commonplace. The essence of ADR is that it should not need the presence of lawyers as advocates, and thus keep down the cost of justice.

Redress for ill-served clients must be prompt, open and generous. Bad lawyers must be forced out of the system, and the indifferent promptly and severely penalised to encourage the rest. Of all legal services, that dealing with consumer complaints should be the most accessible and user-friendly, and the least mystifying to an aggrieved public. A Copernican revolution that places the customer not the lawyer at the centre of this important professional service cannot be delayed.

Study of HIV in pregnant women

From Professor J. E. Banatvala and others

Sir, Our study on the prevalence of HIV among pregnant women at St Thomas' hospital achieved widespread attention in your columns (report, February 8; "Pointless panic on Aids", February 11; letters, February 13). We are concerned that those who have expressed criticism, and even those who appeared to support our work, have drawn false conclusions.

The study has been criticised because of its small size, and it is claimed that we extrapolated too widely from our findings. The study was designed primarily to direct local resources to areas of greatest need, although locally based, some 4,000 patients were investigated.

Our recommendation that consideration should be given to universal screening of pregnant women for HIV in inner London is based not only on our own data but also on the results of a Public Health Laboratory Service study which covered many districts of both inner and outer London and showed that approximately one in 500 pregnant women were HIV-positive in inner London in 1990.

In addition, HIV is now spreading rapidly heterosexually, not only in Africa but also in other parts of the world including many parts of Asia; there is also widespread travel from London to such areas for business or pleasure and many of our patients originate from these areas. Since a diagnosis of HIV infection will lead to better management, failure to identify mothers and their babies on a named-patient basis is inconsistent with good medical practice.

Only 1.3 per cent of our pregnant patients asked to be tested for HIV in 1990; the proportion in 1991 was 2.5 per cent. HIV infection will not remain confined to those perceived to be at high risk and our study was a snapshot of the position in 1990. There is, therefore, no reason for complacency.

We hope that some of the uninformed views that our study provoked will not inhibit prospective locally based studies (preferably covering a wider area) being carried out so that changes in the pattern of infection can be readily identified and preventive measures implemented or intensified.

In its report of October 1991, the National Audit Office was critical of the way HIV funding was being used, emphasising that preventing the spread of HIV infection was of crucial importance, that resources needed to be targeted more closely to the areas of greatest need, and that health departments should "improve their knowledge of their local population at risk and ensure that preventive resources and initiatives are directed at those groups".

The report also stressed the importance of "ensuring that national and local campaigns were complementary". We hope that our studies have addressed these issues.

Yours faithfully,
J. E. BANATVALA,
I. L. CHRYSTIE,
A. KENNEY,
United Medical and Dental Schools of Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals, Lambeth Palace Road, SE1.

New GP contract

From Dr Ian Bogle

Sir, Your report (February 11) that in the opinion of the pay review body the BMA acknowledges the "great success" of the new GP contract will, I am sure, surprise many GPs. What the BMA acknowledges in its evidence to the doctors' review body was that despite their strong opposition GPs have responded well to working the contract.

This greater activity, however, does not point to the success of the contract, which has caused low morale among GPs and unnecessary

Justice in cases of complex fraud

From Mr Anthony Grabiner, QC

Sir, One way of improving the quality of justice in complex fraud cases (leading article, February 12) is for the prosecution to try to keep things simpler.

In my view it ought to confine itself to a few specimen charges alleged to have been committed by the defendant(s) during the period of alleged complaint. If the present criminal-justice procedures are to be retained (and I believe they should be) it is of vital importance that the issue of dishonesty should be raised fairly and squarely by the terms of the indictment.

If instead there are dozens of counts, many of which do not in fact raise the issue of individual dishonesty, there is a very strong argument for the introduction of a new administrative or quasi-legal procedure for disposing of such cases.

It is high time that some basic policy decisions were taken so as to ensure justice not only for defendants and their families but also for the tax-paying public who must be mystified by some of the recent proceedings.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY GRABINER,
1 Essex Court, Temple, EC4,
February 12.

From Mr Simon Farrell

Sir, Juries are not at the heart of the problem over "mega" trials, such as those of Roger Seelie and Peter Clowes. The unnecessary volume of photocopied material and the rules governing the presentation of criminal cases by the prosecution are more to blame.

To dispense with the jury system in such cases would be a serious threat to civil liberty. Often the issue in the fraud trial is simple: was the defendant dishonest?

There is no need for months of protracted evidence, with little dispute as to the facts, to decide this issue. Where there are major disputes then, of course, evidence should be called. On matters of

From the Director of the Public Health Laboratory Service Board

Sir, Dr Le Fanu (article, February 11) claims that the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre (CDSC) presents the collected Aids statistics "in an unusual way", providing not the number of new cases each year but instead the cumulative total of cases. He suggests that this presents a distorted picture.

In fact, CDSC publishes both sets of figures quarterly in this board's Communicable Disease Report. The cumulative numbers of reported Aids cases and deaths are published in order to help health authorities and others to estimate the number of live Aids cases requiring health care.

Dr Le Fanu misquoted the 1988 forecasts of Aids cases; the expert group who undertook this work predicted that in 1992 the number of new Aids cases would be in the range of 1,630 to 3,000 — not 30,000 as quoted. He also failed to mention our updated forecasts, published at the beginning of 1990, which revised estimates downwards, having taken account of the number of cases reported in the intervening years.

While all the data on newly diagnosed Aids cases in 1991 are not available at present, the figures to date indicate that the total is likely to be compatible with the predictions given in our 1990 report.

Yours faithfully,
JOSEPH SMITH,
Director, Public Health Laboratory Service Board,
61 Colindale Avenue, NW9,
February 12.

bureaucracy. It does point to the positive and professional way in which GPs have met the challenge facing them. In these circumstances, it is unfortunate, to say the least, that because of the way the contract was originally underpinned GPs are being faced with reductions in their pay — a penalty for over-achieving.

Yours faithfully,
IAN BOGLE,
(Chairman, General Medical Services Committee),
British Medical Association,
BMA House,
Tavistock Square, WC1,
February 11.

It is nothing short of a scandal that four out of five locked cars tested by this association's magazine, *Which?*, took less than ten seconds to break into. In 30 years, only one car, the VW Passat CL, has completely defeated the efforts of our security experts. Those three decades of success in breaking into virtually every car on the market, with unwelcome ease, without damage, should, at the very least, shame those manufacturers who have yet to act into making their cars more theft-proof, in this of all years.

By all means, encourage drivers to lock their cars. But if a locked car is such easy prey, the hyenas will have the last laugh.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BEISHON,
Chief Executive,
Consumers' Association,
2 Marylebone Road, NW1,
February 12.

Her former burial place was garlanded with flowers on the anniversary of her death (February 8), appropriately in the week when we gave thanks for the 40-year reign of her descendant, our present Sovereign.

Yours truly,
THOMAS CHRISTIE,
Preston House,
The Precincts,
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Justice in cases of complex fraud

From Mr Anthony Grabiner, QC

Sir, One way of improving the quality of justice in complex fraud cases (leading article, February 12) is for the prosecution to try to keep things simpler.

In my view it ought to confine itself to a few specimen charges alleged to have been committed by the defendant(s) during the period of alleged complaint. If the present criminal-justice procedures are to be retained (and I believe they should be) it is of vital importance that the issue of dishonesty should be raised fairly and squarely by the terms of the indictment.

If instead there are dozens of counts, many of which do not in fact raise the issue of individual dishonesty, there is a very strong argument for the introduction of a new administrative or quasi-legal procedure for disposing of such cases.

It is high time that some basic policy decisions were taken so as to ensure justice not only for defendants and their families but also for the tax-paying public who must be mystified by some of the recent proceedings.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY GRABINER,
1 Essex Court, Temple, EC4,
February 12.

From Mr Simon Farrell

Sir, Juries are not at the heart of the problem over "mega" trials, such as those of Roger Seelie and Peter Clowes. The unnecessary volume of photocopied material and the rules governing the presentation of criminal cases by the prosecution are more to blame.

To dispense with the jury system in such cases would be a serious threat to civil liberty. Often the issue in the fraud trial is simple: was the defendant dishonest?

There is no need for months of protracted evidence, with little dispute as to the facts, to decide this issue. Where there are major disputes then, of course, evidence should be called. On matters of

Faulty towers

From Sir David Serpell

Sir, Like Mr Broome (letter, February 10) I have some grateful memories of 2 Marsham Street. It is worth recalling that the original Department of the Environment, the first occupant of the building, was to be responsible for "the whole range of functions which affect people's living environment".

Those of us who were charged with setting up the "unified" department in its new, clean premises were greatly helped by being able to move, and mix, some 3,500 key staff from three predecessor departments into a new building near the Houses of Parliament and Whitehall and one that had quite a lot of mod cons.

Bliss was it in that dawn to be alive, and to be in 2 Marsham Street was (relatively) heaven.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID SERPELL,
(Permanent Secretary, Department of the Environment, 1970-2),
25 Crossparks, Dartmouth, Devon.

East Timor deaths

From Mr R. Alexander, MP for Newark (Conservative) and Mr P. Nicholls, MP for Teignbridge (Conservative)

Sir, Lord Avebury's comments (February 4) on the visit of the Indonesian foreign secretary should not go unchallenged. He is a long-time opponent of the Indonesian government and has chosen to put the worst interpretation on the shootings in Dili on November 12, 1991.

The independent commission which investigated the shootings found that "a number of foreigners took an active part" in the demonstration. It had been reported that "some foreigners who claimed to be independent journalists" had been seen "waiting before daybreak with their video equipment at certain places as if they had known beforehand that there would be a protest march that day".

The commission concluded that "about 50" people were killed, not

EC and environment

From Mr John R. Salter

Sir, An EC Commission policy document (report, February 5) now under consideration is said to require plans and policies of every local authority and government department to be subjected to environmental assessment. In some respects the UK government is in advance of thinking in Brussels.

First, civil servants are given clear guidance on environmental impacts in "Policy Appraisal and the Environment" issued last September.

Secondly, the "developer" under the 1985 Assessments Directive can be a public authority which initiates a project, defined as "other interventions in the natural surroundings and landscape". A local planning authority in placing a new style local plan on deposit might well be said to be a public authority initiating a series of site-specific projects requiring assessment within the meaning of the directive. If they are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. SALTER (Chairman, Property and Planning),
Denton Hall Burgin & Warrens,
5 Chancery Lane,
Clifford's Inn, EC4.

Justice in cases of complex fraud

honesty, jurymen who are truly independent and representative of the community as a whole must be better able to decide than judges.

Lay assessors would not greatly speed up such trials, because the evidence would take as long or almost as long to present. What is needed is an effective pre-trial procedure to identify the issues and to drastically reduce the need for the Crown to call hundreds of witnesses with whom, more often than not, there is little or no dispute.

The rules contained in the Criminal Justice Act 1987 do not enable the court to drastically reduce the amount of evidence to be called. The trial judge should have more power to knock heads together to determine the central issues.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON FARRELL,
Mitre House Chambers,
44 Fleet Street, EC4,
February 12.

From Mr Clive M. Hindle

Sir, The worst thing in any trial is to have a rogue defendant with little or no knowledge of the rules of evidence rampaging unrestrained through the case, prejudicing not only himself, but also any co-accused by references to evidence which would otherwise be inadmissible and may well not be probative at all taken in context.

This happens more and more frequently. For it to happen in a trial of the magnitude of the second Guinness case, when new law and new principles were at issue, is a bitter indictment of the system. I cannot believe that Roger Seelie would have turned down the offer of proper representation if he could have afforded it.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE M. HINDLE,
Hindle Campbell (Solicitors),
8 Northumberland Square,
North Shields, Tyne and Wear,
February 12.

From Mr B. F. J. Archer

Sir, When Professor H. C. Higgins (letter, February 11) refers to Marsham Street as a "state of the art" building I can hear the echo of hollow laughter from my ex-colleagues in the development branch of the GLC. Together we spent hundreds of hours trying to agree on stringent financial limits for the council's new housing schemes with our DoE masters in Marsham Street.

Our constant appeals to them to be allowed to spend more on superior quality and longer-lived materials in order to guarantee the necessary 60-year life of the buildings and to minimise future maintenance fell upon deaf ears.

How apposite that the "Kremlin" from which such directives failed to emanate is now only fit for demolition after a mere 20-year life span.

State of the art or artless state?

Yours faithfully,
B. F. J. ARCHER,
6 George Lane,
Lodnon, Norwich, Norfolk.

"more than 100 young people" as Lord Avebury put it. After it reported, the two generals responsible for security in the region were dismissed from their posts. It severely criticised the actions of a number of security personnel which, it said, exceeded acceptable norms and their failure to implement proper riot-control procedures, causing deaths and other casualties.

As far as one can tell the commission seems to have done its honest best, and whilst we all condemn the incident and those responsible this is hardly a case of Indonesia continuing "to defy the rules of international law".

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD ALEXANDER (leader, all-party parliamentary delegation to Indonesia, April 1989),
PATRICK NICHOLLS
(Joint Secretary,
All-Party Indonesia Group),
House of Commons,
February 6.

Socialists' party

From Mrs Elizabeth Coates

Sir, Thank you for publishing the names of the Labour supporters who have done so well during the last 12 years of Conservative government ("Putting the fizz into socialism", *Life and Times*, February 11) that they are each able to spend £500 on a banquet (report, February 14).

At least it helps me to decide which companies not to support, which books not to buy and when to switch off the radio and television.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH COATES,
Victoria House,
Main Street, Alrewas,
Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire.

From Mr A. I. S. Duffus

Sir, I am very pleased for all those who can afford £500 per head to attend the Labour party's fundraising event.

I am also very pleased that they feel able to afford the Labour party's taxation policies. Unfortunately, I cannot.

Yours faithfully,
A. I. S. DUFFUS,
Heydonbury,
Heydon, nr Royston, Hertfordshire,
February 14.

OBITUARIES

ANGELA CARTER

Angela Carter, novelist and short story writer, died of cancer yesterday in London aged 51. She was born on May 7, 1940.

THERE was a time when Angela Carter's evident enjoyment of the pornographic element in the literature of sexuality and her apparent relish for the macabre and the excessive in the way men orchestrate their sexual relations was perceived to be at odds with what she manifestly was — a progressive, socialist, feminist, university-educated sort of woman, and latterly a contented wife and mother.

From the very first her writing burst the bonds of that arch restraint that had characterised the exploration of sexual situations in the novels of her contemporary (though, for the most part, somewhat older) women novelists. The world in which she operated as a writer was a far cry from their nice observation of social nuances and well-bred adulteries.

Angela Carter was an unashamed fantasist, a fabulist of daemonic energy. She dwelt naturally in the world of myth, dream and fairy tale. Above all, in writing about sex she confronted the question of whether a woman can realistically cross the barrier between her natural masochism to inhabit the sadistic terrain of the male, with a seriousness which is wholly absent from the novels of her contemporaries. She squarely faced the possibility that sex is ultimately a violent business and that women can acquire in it.

This sometimes led her into vulgarity. She, too evidently and too often, leaned for information on reading which ranged from the scholarly to the crudest pulp fantasy. Sometimes even her admirers might pause to wonder whether she cared about the answers to the questions she set herself. So wholeheartedly did she engage herself with sexual themes which have so long been the preserve of male novelists that a truly independent standpoint by women is very difficult to formulate without becoming strident and therefore ceasing to be literature. But she remained true to herself and emerged from this process of immersion with an uncorrupted imagination. As time went on she was accepted as being among the most original and serious women writers of her generation. This



carried with it the danger of out status. But that was not something she ever wanted for herself. Indisputably, with her, the macabre came, as naturally as the leaves on a tree and was not manufactured or affected as it was in the works of so many of her fellows.

Angela Carter was born in Eastbourne and might well have been brought up on the Sussex coast. But it was not to be. Grandma, a Yorkshire woman of iron resolve (Angela Carter was later to ascribe her own determination to this source), had come south to supervise the birth and felt that the south coast in the aftermath of Dunkirk was no place to bring up young children. She removed the family to the comparative safety of the Yorkshire coalfield where one of her granddaughters' earliest memories was of her standing on a slagheap and imprecating at Hitler's airfield as they flew in to bomb Leeds and Manchester (Angela Carter's actual age at such a time suggests that myth was an early substitute for a factual memory in her dealings with the world of reality, but this was literature's gain).

Later the family moved to south London where she was

educated at a girls' grammar school in Streatham. She hated the formal part of her education. More interesting were the films (sometimes ones not strictly suitable for young ladies) which her father, the second powerful influence on her life, took her to at the local cinema. Her reaction against school took a drastic form. As a subconscious objection, so she was later to claim, to the possessiveness of her mother, who had threatened to take a flat to be near her daughter should she pass into Oxford, Angela Carter developed spectacular anorexia nervosa and determined to flunk her A-levels. Her father, a man of sense and a journalist who had worked for the Press Association, saw all this was doing her no good and got her a job on the *Croydon Advertiser*. She was no journalist by nature. Her early disregard of the sanctity of fact made her an improbable member of any newswatch which hopes to stay clear of litigation. Nevertheless, she found a niche writing record reviews and features and co-existed not unhappily with her job.

In 1960 she married Paul Carter, an industrial chemist. When, in the following year, he got a job teaching chemis-

try at Bristol Technical College, she went with him. For a short period she found herself being "just a wife" and spent the time between seething discontent at the tedious life this was not her husband's fault: he took her on peace marches and introduced her to jazz and a fascination with the student and cafe life of Bristol, which she frequented in her wanderings about the streets. Then an uncle suggested she go to Bristol University, where she read English literature, immersing herself, in particular, in those areas of the middle ages which had escaped the attentions of the fanatical followers of F. R. Leavis.

She started writing as an undergraduate and made her debut with *Shadow Dance* (1966) which she wrote in the summer vacation of her second year. Though set in the recognisably undergraduate world of pubs, junk shop dealers and large-eyed young girls, it showed the influence of her voluminous reading with its tale of a bizarre murder carried out by a young girl who is all innocent sweetness on the surface and pure Webster's *White Devil* beneath. This work (which later embarrassed her with its Grand Guignol excesses) was



A scene from *The Company of Wolves*

followed by *The Magic Toyshop* in 1967 which dealt intriguingly with family relationships.

Another story strong on the mysterious and the bizarre, as well as being good on the penumbras of human nature, this nevertheless impressed critics for the control with which Angela Carter handled her material. Her third book, *Several Perceptions*, won her a Somerset Maugham prize in 1969 and gave her the sense of liberty which, subconsciously, she had been wanting. She and her husband agreed to part and she used her prize money to get as far away from Christian western Europe as she could. Her bolshoi was Japan where she worked for a spell in the English language branch of the NHK broadcasting company and wrote *Love* as well as beginning *The Infernal Desire Machine of Doctor Hoffman*. The first, which appeared in 1971, confirmed her as someone who could deal authoritatively with the dark side of love, particularly of sibling affection, and who entwined the surreal and the macabre with the possible and the concrete in an effortless manner.

The second, which was published in the following year, did nothing for her reputation among those who were by now really hoping to see the emergence of a major talent. Indeed, though its educated bachelorette delighted those who love anything modish, she herself was inclined to see it as something of a setback for her. "It was the novel which marked the beginning of my obscurity,"

she once remarked in an interview. "I went from being a very promising young writer to being ignored..." This was something of an exaggeration. She kept her following and in 1984 a film version of her short story *The Company of Wolves* (originally published in *Bananas*) in 1984 brought her to a wider audience through its box office success. But as time went by there were fears that, at 40, her best work was already behind her. Later work such as *The Passion of New Eve* (1977) showed signs of succumbing to the polemicism which she had, until that point, avoided. The publication of her non-fiction *The Sadeian Woman: An Exercise in Cultural History* (1979) was provoking and perceptive but it did not get her further than her fiction does into the question which is at the heart of everything she wrote (the problem posed by Pauline Reage's *Histoire d'O*) — namely: do women subconsciously enjoy, if not actually invite, the sadistic treatment they so often get from men?

From 1976 to 1978 Angela Carter was a fellow in creative writing at Sheffield University and she later spent a year as visiting professor in the writing programme at Brown University, Rhode Island. She had scripted (with Neil Jordan) the film *The Company of Wolves* and did the same for *The Magic Toyshop*, which was made into a film in 1986.

She married, secondly, Mark Pearce, and at the age of 43 she had a son. They both survive her.

WILLIAM SCHUMAN

William Howard Schuman, American composer and former administrator of the Juilliard School of Music and the Lincoln Center, died after hip surgery at a Manhattan hospital on February 15, aged 81. He was born in New York on August 4, 1910.

ALTHOUGH his music never gained much of a foothold in Europe, William Schuman's distinctly American style and solid craftsmanship won him lasting critical acclaim in the United States. As a composer, he created ten symphonies, five ballet scores, concertos for the piano, violin, viola and cello, numerous works for chorus, and a single opera. But his work as an educator and administrator, in which he championed the cause of new American music and dance, probably ranks of no less importance.

Schuman wrote his first piece, a tango for violin and piano, when he was only 16, and his first published work was a popular song, "In Love with You," with lyrics by Frank Loesser. At this time he was infatuated with the popular music of the period following the first world war, and wrote songs and pieces for jazz bands in collaboration with the leading lyric writers of the time.

He had been intended for a business career, studying at the New York School of Commerce, but attending a concert of the New York Philharmonic conducted by Toscanini in 1930 changed all that. Schuman promptly enrolled in New York's Malkin Conservatory, studying counterpoint and composition under Charles Huelgel, and went on to study at Juilliard under the composer Roy Harris, who became a major influence on his work.

Even while he was honing his composition skills, however, Schuman was preparing for his double career. He went to Columbia University's Teachers College, earning a bachelor degree in 1935, and his master's in 1937.

It was Roy Harris who introduced him to Serge Koussevitzky, conductor of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, who conducted the first performances of Schuman's *American Festival Overture* (1939), his *Third Symphony* (1941), *A Free Song* (1943), and the *Symphony for Strings* (1943).

A Free Song, which was a secular cantata, won Schuman his first Pulitzer Prize. But it was his *Third Symphony* which became a critical and popular success, and led to his work being widely performed throughout the United States.

This composition, and his Ninth Symphony, are generally considered his most vital pieces. They are notable for their large yet taut structures, broad cantilena, tonal diction, vigorous drive and febrile rhythms with fugato and

ostinato playing an important part in their compositional technique. Most of his symphonies end in apocalyptic finales.

Schuman joined the music faculty of Sarah Lawrence College in New York in 1935, leaving in 1945 to become editor-in-chief of a music publishing house. That same year he assumed the presidency of the Juilliard School of Music where he made major changes in the curriculum, created the opera and dance branches, and instituted the Juilliard Quartet. In the early 1960s he became involved with the controversial Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts and in 1962 left Juilliard to become its president.

He continued to compose even at the busiest times but in 1969 decided to give up his administrative work and go back to being a full-time composer.

The symphonies form the core of his work but he also



wrote a much admired Violin Concerto and extensively for big choral ensembles. His sole opera is entitled *The Mighty Caesar*, a "baseball opera", written in 1953. His ballet *Underrow* was first presented at the Metropolitan Opera in 1945. Film scores and chamber music also figure largely in his output.

Schuman had begun as a musical conservative, his style deliberately evocative of American images. As his career progressed, however, the harmonic language grew increasingly dissonant, although his individualistic idiom remained.

"My music has changed over the years," he said in 1980. "I no longer work with key centres, but the music is always melodic and has a sense of line. My music can always be sung. I have never written a note in my life that was not deeply felt."

Schuman won a second Pulitzer Prize in 1985 for his composition and his work as an educator and administrator. Among his many other honours were the first New York Critics' Circle Award for his *Third Symphony*, the gold medal of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and the National Medal of Arts. He is survived by his wife, Frances, and his son and daughter.

GEORGE MACBETH

George MacBeth, former BBC radio talks and poetry producer, poet and novelist, died of motor neurone disease in Thurin, Co Galway, yesterday aged 60. He was born in Scotland on January 19, 1932.

GEORGE Mann MacBeth was arguably the single most influential individual in the field of British poetry since T.S. Eliot. From 1958, when he became editor of *Poetry Now*, until 1976, when he ceased and became editor of *Poetry Now*, MacBeth was responsible for most of the considerable output of new verse transmitted by the BBC. His was, to say the least, an influential job and he exercised that responsibility with an objectivity and discretion authority rare, indeed almost unique, in the partisan and frequently petty world of poetry. It would be hard to find any but the most disgruntled poetaster who did not, in honesty, acknowledge that MacBeth's integrity and judgment amidst the feuding fiefdoms was other than impartial and exemplary. In his BBC capacity, he espoused neither the more extravagant irrelevancies of the avant garde (although his personal preference was for innovation and originality of voice) nor traditional forms at their more hackneyed: he was adept at spotting and sponsoring poetic excellence wherever he perceived it.

He was a most professional and sensitive producer, whenever possible skillfully directing the poets themselves (rather than employing actors who mostly read poetry harmfully, or resort to the stultifying voice-beautiful) to realise fully the rhythms, inspiration and meaning of their creations. He would, with the utmost tact and courtesy, make even the poet laureate record repeatedly a new poem, or lines from it, until satisfied that the poet had not sold himself short.

MacBeth was himself a prolific poet, who suffered critically because every book was different, and he never adopted a bardic posture. Poets of more limited talent, vision, technique and verbal dexterity, sometimes had larger reputations because, in effect, with each new volume they turned out the mixture much as before.

MacBeth's worldly wise intelligence and restless appetite for new experiences, for new beginnings (he was married three times) meant that as a poet he was tough to pigeon hole, although *Transpassing*, his nineteenth and final collection (1991),



was infinitely quieter, loving, more elegiac and philosophical than his first significant collection, *The Broken Places* (1963). His *Collected Poems 1958-1982*, published in 1989 — which included "The Miner's Helmet", an early autobiographical verse — displays an indefatigable enthusiasm for metre and form, the mechanics of worth, while verse, and the widest range of subject matter.

His *Collected Verse*, although 400 pages, is but a selective garnering from his oeuvre. In a foreword he writes: "A poet nearing 60 expects neither pardon nor quarter, but the ache for understanding grows with time. 'I see what you mean' begins to seem a nicer line of praise than 'I like what you're doing'." The last two poems are addressed "To My Unborn Child" and to the subsequent son, "To Alexander, Sleeping".

MacBeth came to fatherhood relatively late, and it overjoyed him. Alexander's mother was his second wife, the travel writer and novelist Lisa St Auban de Teran, whom he married in 1982 and who divorced

him in 1989. He had a second child, a daughter, by his third wife. It is no disrespect to his beloved third wife, Penny Church, to record that MacBeth was devastated by the break-up of his second marriage. His 1990 novel *Another Love Story* — although much hacked about by lawyers prior to publication — bears heartbreaking witness to this, as does his 1988 collection of poems *Anatomy of a Divorce*. He was married first, in 1955, to the biologist Elizabeth (Betty) Robson; they were divorced in 1975.

In that year he published his first novel, *The Transformation*, which was about sexual ambiguity. Nine novels followed. Again, perhaps, he received less than his critical due because each novel is utterly different from the others in kind (except for the erotic, some would say pornographic, Cadbury trilogy).

The Samurai (also 1975) pays tribute to MacBeth's obsession with Japanese swords, which in *Who Who* he gives as his solitary recreation. His best novel is *Anna's Book* (1983), about a ballooning expedition at the turn of the century. The

The Miner's Helmet

My father wore it working coal at Shotts.
When I was one. My mother stirred his broth
And rocked my cradle with her shivering hands
While this black helmet's long-lost miner's lamp
Showed him the road home. Through miles of coal
His fragile skull, filled even then with pit-props
Lay in a shell, the brain's blue-printed future
Warm in its womb. From sheaves of saved brown paper
Baring an oval into weeks of dust
I pull it down: its laced straps moved to admit
My larger brows; like an abdicated king's
Gold crown of 30 years ago, I touch it.

With royal fingers, feel its image firm —
Hands grown to kings' hands calloused on the pick,
Feet slow like kings' feet on the throwward gradient
Up to the coal-face — but the image blurs
Before it settles: there were no crusades.
My father died a draughtsman, drawing plans
In an airy well-lit office above the ground
Beneath which his usurpers, other kings,
Reigned by the fallen helmet he resigned
Which I inherit as a concrete husk.
I hand it back to gather dusk on the shelf.

Lion of Pescara is an over-wrought celebration of the poet D'Annunzio and Mussolini's Italy (MacBeth was much intrigued by anarchists and fascists, whether of the political, poetic or sexual kind).

For children he retold the stories of Noah and of Jonah in spirited verse, and he was an exceptional anthologist. His three anthologies for Penguin — of *Sick Verse* (1963), *Animal Verse* (1965) and *Victorian Verse* (1968) — are revelatory and his *Poetry 1900-1975* (1967) has introduced hundreds of thousands of children to the "sensibleness" of modern poetry. *The Book of Cats*, co-edited with Martin Booth, is the ultimate cat anthology, an invigorating, upmarket celebration. He was also an inspiring teacher of poetry, mainly to American university students in London. He won two major poetry awards, the Geoffrey Faber (1964) and the Cholmondeley (1977).

His most moving book is *A Child of the War* (1987), a limpid autobiography of his early years, ending with his departure to New College, Oxford, the first member of his

working class family from Shotts, Lanarkshire, to go to university. By then his parents were both dead, his mother from disease, his father during the second world war but not in combat. His life thereafter, and essentially his writing, were a search and compensation for a blighted childhood, the premature loss of parental guidance and affection.

MacBeth was a man of infinite courtesy (who for much of his life dressed debonairly with phrases when he plunged almost into hippydom) which somehow dampened down a difficult, broken, emotional life. He lived with his first wife in a Georgian terrace house in Richmond, Surrey; thereafter he favoured more the role of Edwardian country gent, acquiring vast piles in Yorkshire, then Norfolk, and finally Ireland. In their romantic absurdity, their dustiness, they evoked a Mervyn Peake-like extravagance which, Gormenghast-like, seemed to envelop MacBeth in his painful, even Gothic, fatal illness.

George MacBeth's last novel, *The Testament of Spencer*, is being published this autumn.

FEB 17 ON THIS DAY 1940



The memories of those readers who were wartime evacuees will be stirred by this article. Possibly some, of more advanced years, were among those moved from the insurance company in Holborn (the Post).

GREAT BRITAIN IN WAR-TIME XI — West Country hospitality

Probably the most notable effect of the war for the greater part of the West Country is the addition to its population which has resulted from the Government's evacuation scheme and the arrival of others who have come from more congested areas on their own initiative. Where this has led to full use being made of country houses by people who normally spend much of their time in London it has brought a welcome addition of business to local tradesmen. In this, as in every sense, evacuation may be said to be doing both sides the usual residents and the newcomers — nothing but good, and, as the Bishop of Exeter in these columns recently quoted a London official as saying: "The worst thing about evacuation is that one day it must come to an end."

Meanwhile, undulating the warmth of West Country hospitality and the pleasantness of life in the country, is the fact that Devon has been more successful than any other area in retaining children evacuated under the Government scheme, and there are still 6,400 children from London living there. Certainly these children will be sorry when evacuation comes to an end and they have to return to less healthy surroundings. Hundreds, who were pale-faced when they arrived now have attractive rosy cheeks, and mothers who travelled down to

Exeter from the capital by special excursion train recently were delighted to find their children looking so much fitter. They found, too, that already a Cockney accent had given way to a broad Devonshire dialect, frequently of surprising richness. On his return journey the train carried back to London only two children, and this for the good reason that their parents were moving from London to the country.

The children are enjoying life in Devon, which is scarcely surprising, for meadows, ponds, moorland and the seaside are better settings for fun and games than busy London streets or slum courts, and lambs, already about, are more exciting to watch than lorries. Also, because country air and more living room have made them healthier and stronger, they are in better shape to live life joyously. Added to this, their hosts have done all they could to make the children at home and happy.

Torquay has attracted many new residents. According to one estimate at least 2,000 Londoners have gone there for the duration of the war, apart from evacuation carried out by business concerns. Some 300 boys and girls, who were sent to Torquay when war broke out, have stayed on. Among other evacuees are 150 employees of an industrial concern. An hotel has been transformed into a convalescent home for R.A.F. officers.

But the biggest transfer of all has been made by an insurance company, which has removed 1,800 employees from its red-brick headquarters in Holborn to a new setting on the red soil of Devon. The new offices are four hotels and 22 specially built huts at Torquay and on the cliffs at Babbacombe, and it was a new experience to see the sun lounge of a big hotel lined with desks at which girl clerks were working vigorously and the ballroom furnished with office equipment. For the greater safety of the staff deep trenches have been dug and fitted with electric light.

MAN OF THE WEEK

All in a hard Day's work

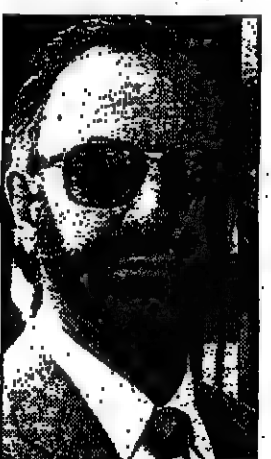
Sir Graham Day is renowned for his mental precision. "He is bright and direct, knows what he thinks, and expects what he thinks to be done," one colleague says. Supremely well organised, his life is run by two secretaries who enter everything in a giant Filofax. And to that he keeps.

It is just as well, because he has lots of jobs. The chairman of Cadbury Schweppes and of PowerGen, he has recently been left holding a somewhat messy baby as caretaker chairman of British Aerospace.

Just how messy we shall see when BAE announces final results on Wednesday - the market expects losses of about £90 million after provisions.

More important, the market will be hoping for some hint of progress from Sir Graham on finding a permanent chairman brave enough to take on the challenge of restoring BAE's fortunes. The word is he is working hard on whittling candidates down to a shortlist, and is on course to announce a successor by the summer.

Originally a lawyer from Nova Scotia, Sir



Day: well organised

Graham first came to Britain to sort out Cammell Laird shipbuilders in 1971, and was chairman and chief executive of British Shipbuilders before joining Rover Group in 1986.

One insider at BAE says: "He is not City establishment or Aerospace establishment. He is a pure management strategist." Thankfully, he is not perfect and he can lose his temper to some effect. However, his grasp of complex problems, his stamina, and ability to build management teams earns respect.

Despite working ferociously hard, he enjoys family life and loves to visit his grown-up children in Canada.

Now 58, he has promised his wife he will stop full-time work at the age of 60. Unusually in cases such as these, nobody is in any doubt that he will stick to his word.

JUDI BEVAN

Market fears glut in production

Opec dispute threatens oil output quotas

BY MARTIN BARROW

OIL prices are expected to ease this week after disagreement at the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' four-day meeting in Geneva.

Opec secured a tentative agreement from its members for a 6 per cent reduction in oil production to just below 23 million barrels per day (bpd) but oil traders fear the new output quotas might not hold because of bitter divisions that exist in the cartel's membership.

Saudi Arabia and Iran, Opec's two senior members, signed the agreement late on Saturday but expressed reservations about the output ceiling of 22.98 million bpd, undermining the latest attempt to drive oil prices closer to a target of \$21 a barrel.

Instead, it seems likely that North Sea Brent, which trades at a premium to the Opec basket of crudes, might fall below \$18 in the short-term because the oil market continues to fear an oil glut in the second quarter of this year, when demand is expected to fall from 24.7 million bpd to 22.7 million bpd.

Ann-Louise Hilde, an oil and gas analyst at Lehman Brothers, said: "Initially, prices might go a little lower for several days, but I think generally prices will stay in the broad trading range we have seen in recent weeks."

Uncertainty will be caused by Saudi Arabia's new official output ceiling of 7.88 million bpd, which is being imposed by Opec even though Hisham Nazer, the Saudi oil minister, said Saudi production would

be reduced by no more than 500,000 bpd to 8 million bpd. Mr Nazer, who scrapped a draft agreement 24 hours earlier because Saudi Arabia refused to drop output by an extra 100,000 bpd, said: "It is much better to arrive at any agreement than not arriving at any agreement at all."

The Saudi stance drew fierce criticism from Iran, Opec's second-largest producer. Mr Gholamreza Agazadeh, the Iranian oil minister, said the output cap was too high, warning that it was "a danger to the market". Iran said it would accept a new quota of 3.18 million bpd, down about 300,000 bpd, but analysts say Tehran is under pressure to lift revenues because of continuing difficulties in attracting foreign investment.

Mr Agazadeh said a 10 per cent cut in production would have boosted members' revenues by 20 per cent. Iran has estimated revenues on the basis of a \$17 a barrel price for Iranian heavy crudes for its budget starting on March 21. Iranian oil sells for about \$3 a barrel less than the low-sulphur Opec basket of light crudes. He said the agreement only covered two months.

Other members appear unlikely to abide by their quotas if Saudi Arabia, which accounts for 35 per cent of Opec's output, breaches its quota and oil prices continue to founder at current levels. In particular, Venezuela, which campaigned for an output ceiling of 22 million bpd, and Algeria are desperate to increase oil revenues to soften austerity measures that have caused open revolt among the civilian population and might open to maximum output.

This is the first time Opec has attempted to impose production quotas since the Gulf war. The previous quotas were suspended after Iraq invaded Kuwait, allowing Saudi Arabia to increase production by between 50 and 60 per cent to make good the subsequent shortfall in Opec oil.

Unhindered by quotas, all Opec members have produced as much oil as possible and in January output reached a record 24.5 million bpd. At the same time, demand for oil faltered as Europe and America grappled with recession while a mild winter in the northern hemisphere reduced demand for heating fuels, adding to the oil market's woes.

Quotas of 812,000 bpd and 505,000 bpd were assigned to Kuwait and Iraq respectively, marginally ahead of each war-ravaged country's current output. But Opec again failed to agree how it would eventually accommodate Kuwait's rising oil capacity, which is expected to reach 1.2 million bpd by the end of this year, or the sale of Iraqi crude, currently the subject of an international embargo.

France approves bid for Perrier

BY OUR CITY STAFF

THE terms of Nestlé's FF13.3 billion hostile takeover bid for Source Perrier, the mineral water group, have been approved by the French finance ministry, clearing the way for the Paris bourse to start the bidding period, during which Perrier shareholders can tender their shares for FF1.475.

Bourse authorities were expected to move quickly to open the bidding period, which usually lasts about four weeks. Perrier shares closed at FF1.575 on Friday, well above Nestlé's bid price.

The government's approval is a setback for Italy's Agnelli family, which, with two allies, controls 49.3 per cent of Perrier and has rejected Nestlé's proposals. However, the

cross-border takeover still faces a series of legal hurdles. Tomorrow, a court in Nîmes, France, is scheduled to take up a complaint filed by Nestlé. Courts in Paris and competition authorities in Paris and Brussels are also reviewing the Perrier bid. The cases could take weeks, or even months, to complete.

Many analysts expect the Agnelli, Nestlé and the investment banks involved in the battle - Société Générale and Worms & Cie on the side of the Agnelli-Indosuez and Lazard Frères with Nestlé - to try to strike a deal in the meantime. Gerard Worms, the chairman of Cie de Suez, Indosuez's parent, said on Saturday he believed an accord was possible.

Seven on shortlist for small company award

SEVEN companies have been shortlisted in the Company of the Year 1991 category of the Coopers Deloitte PLC Awards, which are sponsored in association with The Times.

Jeyes Group, Medeva, Lionheart, Farepak, Inter-care, Huntleigh Technology and Seon Healthcare were selected after votes were cast by investors, financial advisers and company executives.

The winner will be chosen by a panel nominated by Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte and named at a ceremony at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London, on March 19, when the guest speaker will be Norman Tebbit.

Graham Cole, corporate finance partner at Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, said: "I am very impressed by the quality and variety of companies represented."

Awards will also be presented in the categories of analyst of the year, new company of the year, entrepreneur of the year and best annual report.

Best performing share has been already been confirmed as Airtours, the package holiday company whose shares rose 433 per cent in 1991.

Smaller Companies, page 20

COOPERS
DELOITTE
PLC
AWARDS
1991

Disney loses magic for UK firms

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
EUROPEAN BUSINESS
CORRESPONDENT

THE Euro Disney theme park outside Paris, scheduled to open in April, has already been a costly venture for a group of British subcontractors.

The Times has obtained information showing that 16 out of 22 British subcontractors have either gone into administrative receivership or liquidation, with only six left trading normally. The subcontractors involved were hired by Taylor Woodrow, the British construction group which is itself a contractor to Euro Disney.

Problems among the British firms have surfaced after a series of disputes between Euro Disney and its contractors. One of the British subcontractors claims to have been affected by late payments and extra work he was forced to carry out under the contract. In another case, one company claims to have worked twice as much as stipulated

under the contract, without yet having received payment for the extra work.

The contracts between Euro Disney and its contractors are subject to strict confidentiality agreements and the names of the subcontractors and the type of work they carried out have not been disclosed. Apart from the confidentiality agreements, the contracts also contain clauses requiring companies to carry out extra work if necessary. These clauses, which are more common in America than in Europe, have given rise to a series of disputes.

Taylor Woodrow, which is understood to be concerned about the decimation of its subcontractors, refused to confirm the number of companies affected, but said: "Some of the companies went into receivership but not for reasons connected with Euro Disney."

One of the subcontractors whose company has gone into liquidation said that the problem was exacerbated by a delay in payment and because the project took up a great deal of management time.

Another subcontractor complained that his contract ended up involving twice as much work as originally envisaged.

There have been wide-ranging disagreements over the £2.2 billion project. Recently 16 contractors claimed they were owed about FF850 million by Euro Disney for extra work. The theme park has rejected this claim but said it had entered into negotiations with its contractors, and that such disagreements form a normal part of projects this size. Euro Disney has always maintained the April 12 deadline has never been under threat because of these disputes.

Last week Euro Disney took the unprecedented step of compensating a group of 40 subcontractors after the main contractor filed for bankruptcy. Last month, a Lyon electronics and audiovisual company filed for bankruptcy and claimed that unpaid bills from Euro Disney contributed to its downfall. One French construction company has sued Euro Disney for FF10 million, it claimed it was owed for extra work.

Chemical firms count cost of green laws

BY ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S chemical industry faces a £440 million a year bill to bring its environmental performance into line with forthcoming legislation, according to the Chemical Industries Association.

About a quarter of all investment will have to be devoted to meeting the requirements of 250 laws being worked on by the European Community, Diane Brown, CIA chief executive in charge of environmental matters, said.

In *Chemical Outlook International*, Ms Brown wrote that profit margins would have to rise 3.25 per cent if the industry's profitability was not to be impaired. The industry would require a 2.5 per cent increase in its return on capital to pay for the investment.

The calculations are based on a survey of the CIA's 200 member companies. Responses were received from 51 companies or divisions, covering 45 per cent of the chemical industry's capital spending.

Despite the huge commitment of Britain's biggest export earning industry, which contributes £2 billion a year to the balance of payments, the chemical industry recognises the need for tougher environmental standards. The CIA's main concern is now to ensure the even-handed implementation of achievable environmental standards across Europe.

The CIA sees Britain's six-month presidency of the Community, which begins in July, as an important opportunity to encourage the introduction of Britain's integrated pollution control (IPC) mechanism throughout the Community.

Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, told the Confederation of British Industry annual conference last autumn, that IPC would give Britain the highest pollution control standards in Europe.

The CIA believes some of the standards proposed cannot be achieved by existing technology. However, it reports a mood of realism among legislators in Brussels, and says Community officials are now more willing to heed advice from the industry on appropriate standards and the best way to ensure them.



Bitter sweet findings: Nigel Whittaker, of the CBI distributive trades panel

CBI survey shows retail sales rising year-on-year

BY COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A FAINT ray of hope to lighten the recessionary gloom is provided in the latest Confederation of British Industry survey, which shows retail sales continuing to pick up year-on-year in January.

The rise retailers reported last month means that the CBI's monthly distributive trades survey has indicated steady, if modest, progress on a year-on-year basis for six months.

Government retail sale figures for January, due out on Wednesday, are expected to confirm the CBI picture of a year-on-year rise in volume sales, with the median of market forecasts pointing to a 0.8 per cent increase. But the month-on-month rise is expected to be only about 0.2 per cent, after a 0.9 per cent drop in December.

Continued consumer caution is seen as the main obstacle to any substantial recovery in the economy overall.

Nigel Whittaker, chairman of the CBI distributive trades panel, said business last month was better than retailers predicted in December, when the trade was exceptionally gloomy about its prospects. Although wary about reading more than a steady year-on-year improvement from the latest figures, he said some retailers are indicating cautious optimism about recovery later this year. In 1991, volume sales fell 0.7 per cent as consumer spending slumped 2 per cent in real terms. "January proved better than expected, but orders placed with suppliers remain down on a year ago, and stock

levels have fallen to their lowest since September 1988," Mr Whittaker said.

For this month, the survey shows retailers expecting continued year-on-year growth, albeit at a "more moderate rate". Importantly, sales of goods linked to the depressed housing market, such as furniture, carpets and DIY, are expected to remain slightly below levels of a year ago.

The survey shows a positive balance of 21 per cent for last

month, with 45 per cent reporting higher sales against 24 per cent forecasting lower sales. For this month, the positive balance has dropped back to 13 per cent.

Retailers, meanwhile, continued to place fewer orders with suppliers. Although retail stocks are now at the lowest since September 1988, the survey shows that retailers still consider that their stocks are too high in relation to expected sales.

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2.8791 (+0.0104)
Exchange index
90.8 (-0.6)

Bank of England official
close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
1950.9 (+5.8)
FT-SE 100
2513.9 (-3.3)
New York Dow Jones
3245.98 (+20.58)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
20883.86 (-1223.26)

Sales of white goods fall 6%

By Derek Harris

ANNUAL sales of domestic electrical appliances last year dropped 6 per cent in volume judged by deliveries into the trade. Compared with the last good sales year of 1988, the figures fell 20 per cent.

The slow housing market and consumer worries about buying on credit were cited by the Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Electrical Appliances.

However, British manufacturers managed more or less to hang on to their market share against imports, although supplies of machines from eastern Europe have tumbled.

Jim Collis, director general of the manufacturers' association, said no significant improvement in white goods is expected this year. "The early months of this year are expected to show a further decline on 1991," he said.

The gloomy outlook has been underlined by cutbacks in the industry. Most recently, Electrolux, the Swedish market leader in Europe, announced the closure of its gas cooker factory in Birmingham. It wanted to focus production on Spenny Moor, County Durham. This is increasing employment at Spenny Moor but there is a net job loss of about 480.

Last year, deliveries of all white goods into the trade amounted to 6.01 million units, the manufacturers' association said. Of these, 3.3 million units were made in the United Kingdom so the home producers' market share fell only marginally from 56 per cent to 55 per cent.

However, the British share of home laundry dropped from 68 per cent to 63 per cent, down 22 per cent compared with 1988. Refrigeration fell 8 per cent, 15 per cent down compared with the boom year. Dishwashers were down 3 per cent, 19 per cent lower than 1988.

Microwave ovens, now a preserve of Japanese makers although production takes place in a number of countries, including the UK, continued to pick up from the sales setbacks of 1990.

Savings rise by £334m

By Lindsay Cook

MONEY EDITOR

NATIONAL Savings made its highest net addition to government funding last month since February 1987. The department paid over £334.7 million made up of net receipts of £173.8 million and accrued interest of £160.9 million.

Fixed-interest certificates, paying a guaranteed 8.5 per cent tax-free, sold £230.2 million. Sales have been boosted by the doubled investment limit for new savers to £10,000 and the attractive returns. Repayments totalled £167.4 million.

Index-linked certificates paying 4.5 per cent tax-free above the inflation rate over five years sold £112.7 million. The investment account attracted £98.3 million and paid accrued interest of £70 million. Income bonds attracted £96.1 million and paid out £60.7 million.

Wakeham urges generators to strike deal with British Coal

By Martin Waller

JOHN Wakeham, the energy secretary, is urging the power industry to reach a deal with British Coal before the general election that would give the latter a firmer future and the government more votes in marginal constituencies with threatened coal pits.

The stock market last week was awash with speculation that National Power and PowerGen, the electricity generators, had reached a deal to take large quantities of British Coal output at the apparently attractive price of £35 a tonne.

The generators denied the suggestion after seeing their share prices fall significantly. Meanwhile, heads of privatised electricity distribution companies said they had also been lobbied by the energy department to reach agreements with the generators over future energy needs that would underpin any coal deals.

National Power and PowerGen are the biggest customers for British Coal, where Neil Clarke has spent his first year as chairman preparing the business for privatisation.

The industry needs a drastic slimming down, at the cost of thousands of jobs, before it can be sold as a profitable concern.

N M Rothschild, the City merchant bank, which is looking at the options for a sale, has indicated that the number of pits may have to fall from about 50 to as few as a dozen before the business can compete on current world markets.

A far more attractive option for the government, at least before the election, would be fixed contracts for some of the pits' future output at prices at which the industry would be viable, and to present this as a sign that the industry could largely be kept running.

City analysts have already pointed out that there are several marginal constituencies in areas such as Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, which are also home to threatened pits.

The generators are contracted to take 65 million tonnes of coal next year at a price already fixed at about £47 a tonne, well ahead of market rates.

However, that arrangement, entered into when the power industry was still owned by the government,



Combined energy: Neil Clarke, left, and John Wakeham could both benefit from a deal with the generators.

expires in the spring of 1993, and the industry is then able to shop around on world markets.

Imported coal arrives at the Thames estuary with a price tag of £31 a tonne, but transport costs to power stations inland add a few pounds to this figure. A price of £35, with a guarantee of supply and no risk of fluctuating exchange rates, would have its attractions, some analysts believe.

The generators are insist-

ing they have no need to enter into binding contracts until much closer to the deadline next spring, although talks with British Coal have already begun, and they are not inclined to sacrifice future profitability to assist the government.

They are still smarting from Mr Wakeham's decision, as the run-up to their privatisation approached last year, to maintain a state holding of 40 per cent.

British Coal is keen to put

some contracts in place to combat increased coal imports.

The generators, however, have already spent large amounts on their own coal importing facilities in preparation for the end of the current contract.

A spokesman for the energy department said Mr Wakeham was not in a position to put pressure on the generators or British Coal, although he conceded that the government remained a shareholder

in both. He said: "The position of the secretary of state is that he would like to see as large a viable coal industry as possible, and the benefits of any lower priced coal deals being passed on to the energy consumer."

Industry analysts say Mr Wakeham's main difficulty is that these two aims may be mutually exclusive. Complaints from the industry indicate that the former may predominate in the run-up to the election.

Private companies set trend in clothing

By Gillian Bowditch

LITTLEWOODS, C&A and River Island, all privately owned, boosted their share of the clothing market last year at the expense of Marks and Spencer and the Burton Group, according to Verdict, the independent market research company.

The clothing market was one of the worst affected of all the retail sectors last year. Total sales edged ahead by only 0.7 per cent to £17.3 billion. Once inflation is stripped out, the market fell 1.2 per cent in 1991, the third consecutive year of decline.

The specialist clothing retailers lost market share as their sales fell by 0.5 per cent to £9.6 billion. The main

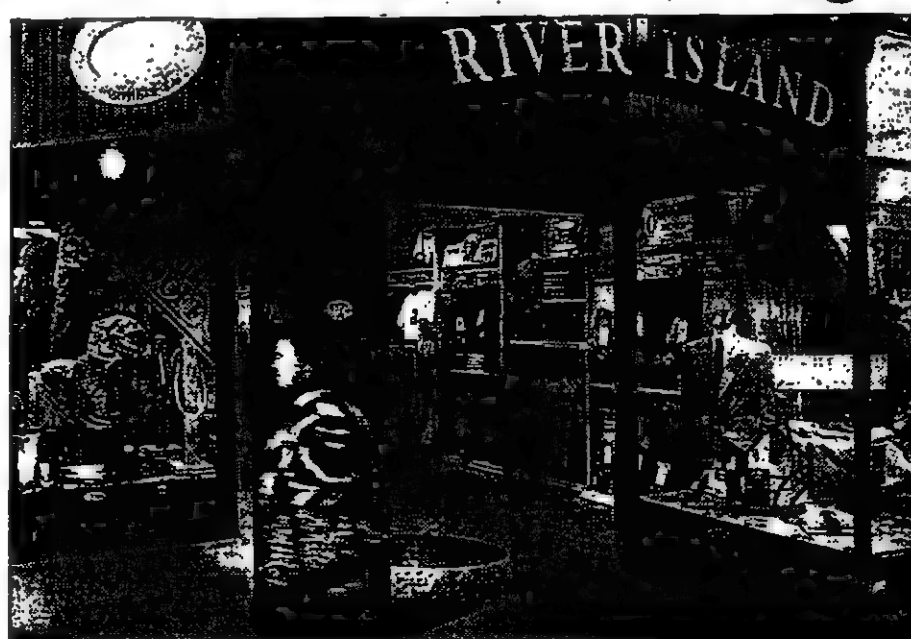
beneficiaries of this decline have been mail order companies and market stalls.

Verdict says the increase in market share by the private companies at the expense of the publicly quoted ones is not entirely coincidental.

"Quoted companies come under enormous pressure to perform. Burton's recent switch in chief executive is a case in point. John Hoerner will quickly face pressure from the City to deliver an improved performance. He will not be given the kind of space and time in which to achieve this that is available to a private company," the report states.

The Verdict report reflects an increasingly cut-throat market characterised by permanent sales and weak consumer demand. M&S's decision to tighten price competitiveness to strengthen margins is reflected in a market share of 15.4 per cent, down from 15.5 per cent in 1990 and 15.7 per cent in 1989.

At the Burton Group, Verdict says, "fierce price cutting has failed to generate the level of incremental sales to fully compensate for reduced mar-



River Island: winning market share from publicly quoted clothing retailers

gins". The company's market share of 9.5 per cent in 1990 shrank to 8.8 per cent last year.

The most positive performance in the market comes from Littlewoods stores. Verdict says the chain's market share rose from 1.6 per cent in 1990 to 1.9 per

cent in 1991 as a result of tight controls, consistent market positioning and one of the best value-for-money offers available.

River Island's market share has risen from 1.4 per cent to 1.5 per cent. The company's transition from Chelsea Girl and Concept Man is now

complete and, in Verdict's view, the large-scale shift in emphasis to a broader and more affluent customer base could have been underpinned by a public company.

C&A's market share is 4.4 per cent, up from 4.3 per cent and in line with its share in 1989.

BRUSSELS NOTEBOOK

Brittan tackles Tokyo on competition

SIR Leon Brittan, the EC competition commissioner, is in Japan this week, hammering away at the Community's trickiest trade rival on banking, insurance and competition. In a series of meetings and speeches, Sir Leon will tell a cross section of Japanese politicians and businessmen that if Tokyo applied its own competition laws more rigorously and removed its trade barriers, everyone would be better off: not a surprising message, given that the Community's trade imbalance with Japan shows no sign of improving.

Sir Leon insists he still sees Japan's recent bilateral deal with America on cars as an "aberration" and that despite its different culture, Japan is slowly taking on board more open trade policies. He added: "I also intend to convey to them that they deal with other parties

at the expense of the EC is something that we find unacceptable."

However, Sir Leon admits he is still a long way from signing any anti-trust pact of the type negotiated by America and Japan. He said: "Times are not ripe for that, the time would be ripe only with countries whose anti-trust enforcement is similar in reach and depth to ours and Japan is not there at this stage."

Sir Leon is facing opposition to his continued liberalisation of the EC air-lines sector from the Association of European Airlines, the industry's lobby. The AEA is worried about the commission's proposed "double disapproval" system where a new air fare can be rejected only if member states at either end of the journey object to it.

The commission wants governments to have 30 days to object to a new fare

the AEA feels they should have only five days to notify the commission. The AEA says the system would make altering fare structures in another situation like the Gulf war almost impossible.

The association also says the commission is ignoring competition to its members from terrestrial transport.

While member states are preparing for battle over Jacques Delors' proposals to boost research and development funds in the Community, the commission quietly approved two new R&D schemes last week. France is being allowed to spend £25 million a year on a programme to improve the "security levels" of new technologies, while Germany has been given the go-ahead for a new £524 million biotechnology programme, to help fund research up to 1995.

TOM WALKER

Short-sighted view looks wise in the long run

With less than a month until the Budget, gilt calls continue to outperform other leading bond markets. There is nothing to suggest that anticipation of this key event will cause a bout of investor nervousness. Indeed, the main threat is that the heavy supply of gilts will cause market indigestion, especially with yields breaking territory uncharted in this cycle.

In line with much of the past decade, the most significant policy decisions likely to be revealed by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, have been more or less discounted. This time there are two further considerations supporting the case that the package will not be regarded as a fresh source of concern — sterling's ERM membership and political factors.

So far, bond investors have derived substantial benefits from the former. While ERM membership arguably has limited the extent of the decline in short-term interest rates, those further along the yield curve have gained from the shift to a fixed exchange-rate regime. Of course, ERM membership has altered, and will continue to alter, the mix of economic policies, the bias swinging increasingly towards fiscal policy to fine-tune activity.

If the authorities' attitude towards neutralising the effect of the public sector deficit on the growth of domestic credit remains unaltered (the so-called full funding rule is not changed), shifts in policy will continue to be of great significance to gilts.

The Budget is important in this respect. Any increase in the public sector deficit implied by the measures suggests an equivalent rise in the potential supply of gilts. Years ago this would have elicited a negative response from investors. This time the reaction has been neutral.

The effects of the recession, now expected to persist well into 1992, have caused a very significant rise in the consensus forecast of gilt supply for the next two financial years — more than £30 billion gross issuance in 1992-3 alone. A package that implies additional funding, even as much as £4 billion, may well be passed off as a mere drop in the ocean. In addition, the proximity of the election is likely to encourage a relaxed attitude to changes in fiscal policy if measures are seen to enhance the government's chances of re-election.

Aside from the political background, supply and the prospects for short-term interest rates are set to be the

two principal domestic areas of focus in the month ahead. Investors have resigned themselves to the prospect of a doubling of gilt issuance in 1992.

Last year, international demand for sterling bonds and the decision of key domestic long-term investment institutions to increase their exposure to bonds ensured the funding programme's success. These factors will remain critical in 1992. The question still facing the market, however, is whether the funds to meet the much heavier requirement will be as forthcoming.

A continuation of the bull market in European bonds would help to ensure heavy supply is absorbed relatively smoothly. But it is very important that the take-up of bonds remains comparatively steady if the market is not to be hit by fears of "buyers' strikes" and the return of much greater yield manipulation as a means of achieving the funding target.

Larger and more frequent supply must remain the authorities' aim. Given the main sources of demand outlined earlier, this is likely to be concentrated at the medium and longer end of the yield curve. Logically, the danger of market indigestion near term and the possibility that sterling stability will lead to further speculation of an early cut in base rates (despite the authorities' desire for caution), would suggest investors should be looking to switch shorter.

But analysis of market history runs counter to this argument. At present, the terms for switching shorter do not appear especially attractive. In addition, investors feel that, by a process of elimination, it is the short end of the market's turn to see the next batch of gilts (probably around the five-year area).

Nevertheless, this presupposes there will be no fundamental change in the shape of the yield curve in the year ahead. In view of the sheer weight of funding and the expected maturity distribution of supply, this is a dangerous assumption. The chances of a further shift towards a positively sloped yield curve, albeit over an extended period, are certainly much greater than in the past four years. The time may not be right pre-Budget, but this longer-term consideration and the possible desire to adopt a more defensive investment stance pre-election, suggests the shorter end of the curve will continue to offer an attractive home for funds.

CHRIS ANTHONY
UBS Phillips & Drew

Union campaigns on part-timers' rights

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

MSF, the technical union, is to launch a campaign aimed at recruiting thousands of part-time workers. The campaign is part of a drive by unions to win better job protection for part-time staff, who have increased in numbers in the past decade as companies have sought more flexible working practices.

The move would also help rebuild the MSF's membership, which, like other large unions, has been eroded by job losses in the recession. Anne Gibson, an MSF national officer, said: "Part-time working is increasing in many of the areas in which MSF organises and all the predictions are that this will continue well into the next century."

MSF says many companies use part-time workers to undercut full-time working agreements. Some also pay low wages, enabling them to avoid National Insurance contributions, and hire and fire part-timers readily. Often, part-timers receive reduced benefits, especially in

training, sick pay, pensions and holiday entitlements.

A leaflet produced by the union says every part-time worker is entitled to equal pay, protection from racial or sexual discrimination, and, in the case of women, time off for ante-natal care without loss of pay. Employees who have worked more than 16 hours a week for the same employer for more than two years are also entitled to protection against unfair dismissal, and redundancy and maternity pay. Those who have worked more than eight hours a week for the same employer for more than five years are entitled to the same benefits.

MSF pledges to campaign for benefits for part-time workers who join the union comparable with those enjoyed by full-time staff. The union highlights its success in a 1987 court case, when it won the right for part-time workers to be included in a company's staff mortgage allowance scheme.

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Dated 17th February, 1992

Learning the old fashioned way

The Serious Fraud Office is having a bad patch. After the collapse of the second Guinness trial and a number of other mishaps its public image, perhaps unfairly, is at a low ebb. Will it do better in the Maxwell case? Few City lawyers are betting on it unless new tactics emerge or Lady Luck smiles more benignly. Radical reforms of the right to trial by jury would involve lengthy consultation and drafting of legislation. Such reforms are unlikely to figure in trials arising from the Maxwell affair.

Since the chief villain in the piece will never stand trial, it might be as well to consider, not so much as an alternative but in parallel with the SFO investigations, an old fashioned Department of Trade enquiry into the pillaging of pension funds, syphoning of funds from public companies, illicit share support operations and the rest of the mayhem presided over by the late Robert Maxwell. Any effort to prosecute over the mess left behind by Maxwell involves most of the problems that dogged earlier failures by the SFO. The investigations themselves will be lengthy and complex in the extreme, and the same is likely for any trials that may emerge. The risks of failure will be high. Expecting a jury consisting mainly of housewives and unemployed — who else can spare six months *pro bono publico* — to follow the complexities of pension fund administration, stock lending or put option contracts is asking a great deal.

Perhaps at the end of all this, some guilty men may emerge. But the thousands of hours spent by investigators and the hundreds of hours of evidence in court (which will go largely unreported if previous large-scale cases are any guide) will do little to enlighten society as to what needs to be done to prevent another Maxwell scandal.

A DTI investigation would yield far more in that respect. Conducted by the usual team of lawyer and accountant, and with powers to call on all those directly involved, such an investigation and the resulting volumes of reportage, analysis, conclusion and recommendation would be far more useful to regulators, legislators and the business community at large. The cost to public funds would be high. But the benefits could be even more valuable.

Chief among these could, and ought to be, a Maxwell-proof framework for pension fund administration. Tighter pension law replacing the current overdependence on antiquated trust legislation is a glaringly obvious need. If drawn widely enough, the terms of reference given to the DTI inspectors would allow a searching account of the most spectacular pension fund rip-off ever seen in Britain. Also likely to emerge would be revisions to Companies Act provisions regulating the relationships between public and private companies controlled by the same individuals or groups which were central to the abuses that have come to light in the Maxwell scandal.

Key sections of any DTI report on Maxwell would describe the roles of professionals such as accountants, lawyers, corporate financiers, stockbrokers, actuaries and bankers. The action or inaction of some of these at crucial moments during the pillage of Maxwell group companies, if subject to scrutiny in the cold print of a DTI report, might well lead to improved codes of professional practice or, more likely, closer adherence to existing ones.

There are so many lessons to be learned from the Maxwell scandal that a mere series of prosecutions, even if they can be made to stick, seem inadequate or irrelevant to a urgent matter of preventive policy making. If not a DTI enquiry, then there must be another form of official action to shed light on the murky. After Maxwell, so many rule books are in urgent need of revision.

Anatole Kaletsky argues that the government has worked miracles by creating the worst recession on record

For the second time in five years, Britain is experiencing an economic miracle. Everyone is familiar with the miracle performed by Nigel Lawson, but the John Major miracle remains almost unknown. Mr Major has conjured up the worst economic disaster since the second world war out of the clear blue sky of strike-free prosperity and entrepreneurial high spirits in the late Eighties. Surely the man who turns a silk purse into a sow's ear is as much a miracle-worker as one who does the trick the other way round.

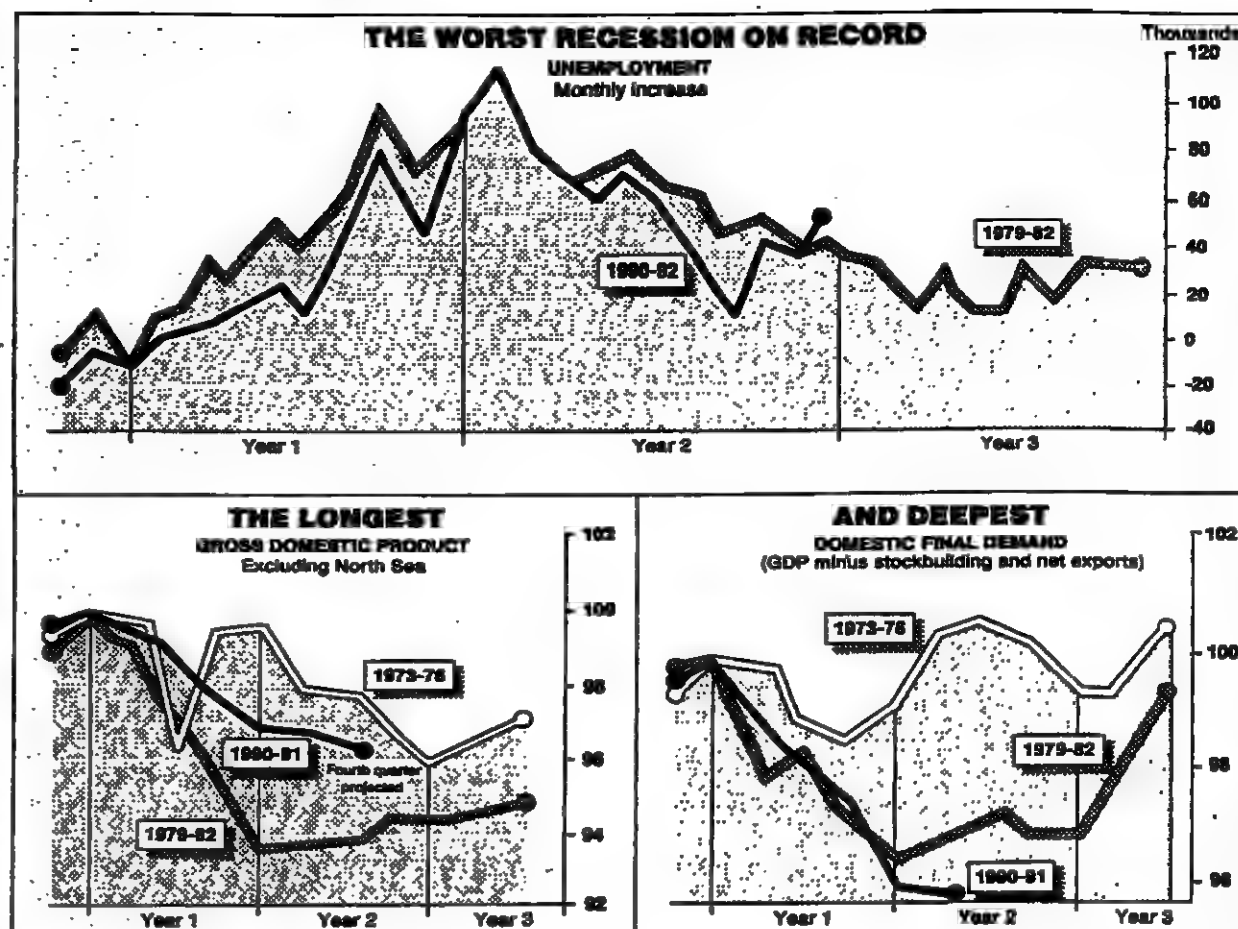
At this point, I may be accused of hyperbole or political bias. So let me make two political observations and then return to the economic issue: just how bad is this recession and did it really have to take place?

The miraculous nature of today's economic conditions may not have been appreciated by the general public but it is ever on the minds of Conservative politicians. As one anonymous cabinet minister confided on the front page of *The Times* last Thursday, it was surely "a miracle" that the government was still ahead in the polls in economic conditions like these. To describe the present recession as the second economic miracle of the Tory era therefore seems perfectly apt.

This leads to the main political balancing item. Behind every Tory economic sorcerer these days stands an enthusiastic Labour apprentice waiting to work exactly the same destructive magic. If the public does not blame Mr Major for this recession, it is because of the political ineptitude and economic incompetence of Neil Kinnock, who has not proposed a single alternative policy that would make any difference to short-term macroeconomic prospects.

In the past 18 months, I have argued the Tories would lose the general election if they stuck to their economic policies. But I have also suggested that Labour would lose, since it had exactly the same macroeconomic policies (the only ones that matter in a recession) and a general reputation for incompetence with money to boot. These

Major and Kinnock share flair for turning silk purses into sows' ears



seemed like contradictory predictions. But it is now becoming apparent how they could both be right. If the Tories and Labour both seem incapable of running the economy, the electorate may decide on a hung parliament, as it did in 1974. This outcome may not improve the standard of economic management, since the Liberal Democrats have also joined the British establishment's lemming rush to German-inspired deflation. But a nation that rejected all the options on offer by electing a hung parliament would at least be sending the politicians a well-earned message of disgust.

Now for the key economic issue: exaggeration. Can this recession honestly be described as "the worst economic disaster in post-war history"? And did it really descend on the nation out of "a clear blue sky"? As the statistical indicators roll in, it is becoming increasingly clear that the answer in both cases is "yes". By the most important measures of human distress — unemployment, bankruptcies and lost homes — the present recession is an unparalleled disaster. The figures on unemployment are so far out of line with previous experience, that meaningful comparisons are not even possible. The sta-

tics on job losses had, until recently, mirrored the records of the 1980 recession. But, as the top chart shows, the latest jump in unemployment has pushed job losses off the previously established trend.

But if such human measures seem too emotive or misleading, consider the dryest economic indicator of all: the gross domestic product. The fourth quarter gdp figures, to be published on Thursday, will confirm that the present slump has been the longest since the national accounts began to be kept in their present form in the Forties. These figures will show the onshore economy shrinking for the sixth quarter running, and quite possibly reveal a contraction even in total gdp, including the large maintenance-related jump in output of North Sea oil. In

cent this time. Adding in the other components of final domestic demand — capital investment and government spending — the total decline in the last recession was only 3.6 per cent, while this time it has been 4.4 per cent and still counting. As the bottom chart shows, the collapse of final domestic demand in the past 18 months has gone far beyond all previous experience.

Why has this collapse occurred and why has the government done nothing to stop it? This brings us back to the question of "clear blue skies". The conventional wisdom in Britain today is that the present recession was a necessary antidote to the inflationary frenzy unleashed by Nigel Lawson. This is plain nonsense.

The economy in 1988 was growing somewhat too strongly and asset prices were rising too fast. But in comparison with past episodes of overheating, the inflation and the excess economic growth in the late Eighties was actually very mild. The main economic problems were not even rising prices or wages, but ballooning current account deficits and the excessive levels of borrowing. The overheating of the late Eighties certainly justified some corrective action. The sharp rise in interest rates in 1988 could usefully have been supplemented with other measures, for example some direct controls on mortgage lending, a judicious increase in taxes and perhaps a devaluation of sterling. But by historical standards the inflation of the late Eighties was a relatively minor problem. The underlying increase in retail prices in 1988 was actually the lowest of any cyclical peak for 20 years, while the unemployment rate was the highest. After all the supply-side and labour market reforms since 1979, how is it that the least serious inflation in 20 years had to be cured with the longest and deepest slump in post-war history? If Mr Major can answer that question he is a miracle-worker indeed.

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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Salomon loses top two

IN ONE fell swoop, Salomon Brothers has lost its two top UK equity men, Ian "Rocket" Stephenson and Kenny Joseph. Stephenson, head of UK equity sales, and Joseph, head of UK equity sales trading, resigned ten days ago but only had their resignations accepted — after a concerted attempt to persuade them to stay — at the beginning of last week. Stephenson, aged 45, regarded by some as the best broker in London, is adamant that their departure had nothing to do with the introduction of two new managers on to the sales floor, Dennis Keegan and Stephen Posford. Posford has been made a member of Salomon's executive committee. "My resignation was not related to them," Stephenson says. "They are amiable, approachable and able." He was, he says, exasperated by the "stop-go" policy on recruitment, an understatement of the time it would now take to rebuild the sales desk after a number of key departures, and a change in attitude toward client relationships. Stephenson, once a partner at Wood Mackenzie, who four years ago retired to Spain only to return to Salomon Brothers a few months later, insists he has no retirement plans now. "I couldn't live without the City," he says. "I have been approached by several major houses and smaller houses. I want to be able to carry on speaking to clients, making money for clients and having fun. I want to be able to get up in the morning and relish going into work."



"Perhaps we could insure our Lloyd's losses as a man-made disaster."

Bidding brothers

BROTHERS Osman and Raschid Abdullah, previously of Evered and now running Starmin, the concrete block manufacturer, are no less acquisitive in their new guise. The pair have several acquisitions in mind, all in their existing line of business, and none of them requiring additional cash calls. "We intend to give RMC a run for its money," Raschid, aged 47, says. Raschid, 15 months older than Osman, understands the unexpected benefits of takeovers. On the day that Evered announced a 15 per cent stake in TI Group in 1986, production in Evered Metals, one of its key subsidiaries, rose 25 per cent. "It gave the employees a buzz to think that we were on the move again," says Raschid, adding that although he is due to start an intensive French course in Guildford in April, he believes America offers more opportunities than Europe for their business at present. Meanwhile,

Osman, who once played the guitar in a rock band and now plays Chopin on the piano for an hour when he gets home at night — "It's very therapeutic," he says — has, in his spare time, caught the golf bug. So determined is he to become a member of a club, and so long are the waiting lists in the South, that he has been travelling regularly from his Surrey home to a club in Elgin, more than one and a half hours' drive north of Edinburgh.

Opening doors

THE revolving door at Hoare Govett is not, as some mavericks claim, working only in one direction. The firm has replaced Nick Collier, its erstwhile banking analyst who went to Morgan Stanley at the end of last year. Taking his place is Brian Crossley, ex-Merrill Lynch and, before that, Wood Mackenzie, where he was part of a number two-ranked team. Crossley, a Scot, will work within Hoare's financial team, comprising Michael Wheelhouse (European financials) Chris Hinchings and Angie Coad.

Classic Oakes

OAKES Fitzwilliams, a specialist investment banking and broking house founded five years ago by Herbert Oakes, ex-Dillon Read, and Duncan Fitzwilliams, ex-Forrest & Colonial Investment Trust, is clearly expanding fast, both in terms of personnel and areas of operation. The London-based firm has just recruited five securities traders and salesmen — Bob Bunker and Keith Mills, both previously with James Capel and Akroyd & Smithers; Jim

Parsons, who joins from Cresvale; and Tony Weedon and Yohiro Takachi, both of whom come from Société Générale Strauss Turnbull. Parsons, Weedon and Takachi will concentrate on Japanese warrants and Far Eastern securities, while Bunker and Mills will take the firm into the bond and other fixed-income markets for the first time.

Ski trip sacrificed

ALMOST exactly a year after he left UBS Phillips & Drew, where he had been deputy managing director, responsible for institutional fixed-income sales, Ken Humphries is making a high profile return to the Square Mile. Humphries, aged 42, starts at Kleinwort Benson today as director responsible for sales and trading of sterling corporate debt. He represents the first key appointment by Alex Dolbey, who was put in charge of all KB's debt products in January. "It is a major coup for Kleinwort Benson to get him, several other firms were after him," a spokesman says. "KB has always operated in this area, but his arrival means that they will be expanding their activities." Humphries, a fanatical skier, who normally spends five weeks a year on the slopes with his wife and four children, will sacrifice his annual half-term trip to the Alps in order to begin his new job. "He's not very happy about missing the holiday but we have just come back from Courchevel," says his wife, Linda, who shares his enthusiasm for the sport and will be taking the children without their father.

CAROL LEONARD

REPORTING THIS WEEK

Zantac expected to keep Glaxo in the pink

SIR Paul Girolami, chairman of Glaxo Holdings, the pharmaceutical group that is Britain's biggest company, is expected to unveil another healthy profits advance on Thursday.

First-half pre-tax profits are forecast to rise 13 per cent to £705 million (£623 million), according to Dr Martin Hall at UBS Phillips & Drew. The market range is from £685 million to £728 million.

Profits will be flattered by a substantial currency boost — with a gain of about 9.5 per cent on the dollar and about 12 per cent on the yen.

Dr Hall expects earnings per share to increase to 17p (14.6p), while an ambitious interim dividend of 5.5p (4.25p) is predicted.

The driving force behind the profits advance will again be Zantac, the anti-ulcer drug that accounts for about half Glaxo's turnover and is the world's most widely prescribed medicine.

Zantac should have done well despite some fears of a slowdown in sales. Reported sales growth will be about 20 per cent, although underlying growth will be nearer 12 per cent. The big question is whether sales can sustain their performance in the light of stiffer competition and the

expiry of a patent on the drug in 1995.

Early progress of the newly launched products that are seen as the key to Glaxo's future performance will come under City scrutiny.

Sales of Serevent, Glaxo's new anti-asthma drug, which enhances and will eventually replace other respiratory products, such as Ventolin, may reach only £10 million.

Zofran, the fast-growing anti-emetic that is widely considered to be one of Glaxo's key medicines of the future, should increase sales to about £100 million (£13 million). Sales of Imigran, the anti-migraine drug, are expected to be about £15 million.

Analysts will look closely at Zantac's market share, and the impact of launch costs of new drugs on margins.

TODAY

Dalgety, the Homepride to Spillers and Golden Wonder foods and agribusiness group, is expected to report interim pre-tax profits of £54 million, against £50 million last time, according to Credit Lyonnais Laing.

Interim: Dalgety, FI Group, Second Alliance Trust, Wills Group.



Paying for cheaper oil: Sir Peter Holmes, of Shell Transport and Trading, is expected to report lower profits

Final: Union Discount of London. Economic statistics: CBI survey of distributive trades (January).

TOMORROW

Interim: Ashland, Fletcher Challenge, Howard Holdings, Norox, Primidone. Final: Scottish Eastern Investment Trust, TR Pacific Investment Trust, Temple Bar Investment Trust. Economic statistics: UK acquisitions and mergers (fourth quarter), public

sector borrowing requirement (January).

WEDNESDAY

British Aerospace, the engineering to aerospace group headed by Sir Graham Day, the caretaker chairman until a permanent replacement is found, will unveil hefty full-year losses after exceptional charges and losses from com-

mercial aircraft and vehicles.

Rob Ellis, at County NatWest WoodMac, expects a final pre-tax loss of £85 million (£376 million profit). The market expects losses of between £80 million and £100 million. A loss per share of 38.3p (£3.4p earnings) is predicted. The dividend should be held at 25p.

Final pre-tax profits at

Lloyds Abbey Life, the life assurance and financial services subsidiary of Lloyds Bank, are expected to slip to £305 million (£319 million), according to Smith New Court. A net dividend of 18p (17p) is predicted.

A recovery from the depressed Gulf war trading period and increased market share after the collapse of

International Leisure Group will help lift full-year profits at Owners Abroad, the package holiday group. County NatWest expects final pre-tax profits to jump to £30.5 million (£15.3 million). Earnings should rise to 11.5p (8.4p) per share, and a dividend of 4p (2.9p) is predicted.

Interim: Alumaac Group, Fleming High Income IT, Jos Holdings, New Zealand Investment Trust. Final: British Aerospace, Lloyds Abbey Life, Owners Abroad Group. Economic statistics: Manufacturers and distributors stocks (fourth quarter — provisional), retail sales (January — provisional).

THURSDAY

Shell Transport and Trading, chaired by Sir Peter Holmes, is expected to unveil a fall in full-year profits, caused by weak oil prices and the impact of recession.

Rod Maclean, at UBS Phillips & Drew, expects fourth-quarter historic cost net income of £530 million, giving £2.46 billion (£3.61 billion) for the year. Fourth-quarter replacement cost net income is forecast at £480 million, giving £2.88 billion (£3.01 billion) for the year.

The average fourth-quarter oil price was \$20.5 per barrel, against \$31.7 a year earlier. The average oil price in 1990

was \$23.5 per barrel, while the average price last year was \$20.

A final dividend of 12.4p is expected, giving a total of 21.3p (20.15p) for the year.

Interim: Colong, El Oro Mining & Exploration Co, Fleming Enterprise Investment Trust, GRI Holdings, Glaxo Holdings, SWP Holdings, Flaxia Astra, Bensons Crisps, Foreign & Colonial Enterprise, Provident Financial, Royal Dutch Petroleum Co, Shell Transport and Trading, Tribune Investment Trust, Ward Holdings, Yorkshire Chemicals. Economic statistics: Major British banking groups' monthly statement (January), provisional estimates of monetary aggregates (January), gross domestic product (fourth quarter — preliminary estimate).

FRIDAY

Michael Lever, at Smith New Court, expects Lloyds Bank to report increased final pre-tax profits of £635 million (£591 million), aided by the contribution from Lloyds Abbey. Market forecasts range from £550 million to £700 million. Mr Lever expects a net dividend of 16.5p (15.3p). Total provisions, mostly domestic, are expected to top £870 million (£799 million).

Interim: BSB Design Group, de Morgan Group, New Throgmorton Trust, Flaxia Brooks Tool Engineering, Fairway (London), Lloyds Bank. Economic statistics: CBI monthly trends enquiry (February).

PHILIP PANGALOS

SMALLER COMPANIES

Healthcare sector looks strong in awards shortlist

HEALTHCARE features prominently as a theme in the shortlist of nominations for the company of the year category in the Coopers DeLoitte plc awards, which are co-sponsored by The Times.

The shortlist, announced today, includes four companies directly related to the healthcare sector, while a fifth supplies cleaning and hygiene products for household use. The seven-strong list also features a supplier of DIY products and a food hamper distributor.

Medeva, the fast-growing pharmaceuticals company, is currently a stock market favourite and was selected by Tempus as a company to watch this year. Medeva was back in the news in January when it paid Glaxo £13.5 million for 30 brands. The company's chairman is Bernard Taylor, who was formerly chief executive of Glaxo but left to establish a new force in the industry.

Seton Healthcare has also been busy developing a portfolio of brands and this month paid £3.2 million for Pharmalex, the manufacturer of Earex eardrops and earplugs, and Dermider skin care products.

Intericare, a supplier of healthcare products, more than doubled turnover and trebled profits last year. Growth has been prominent in all divisions — dental, optical, mobility and specialist pharmaceutical.

Humbleigh Technology is a USM-quoted manufacturer of a wide range of medical equipment, including ultrasound monitors and a mattress that helps prevent bed-



Lever: careful stewarding

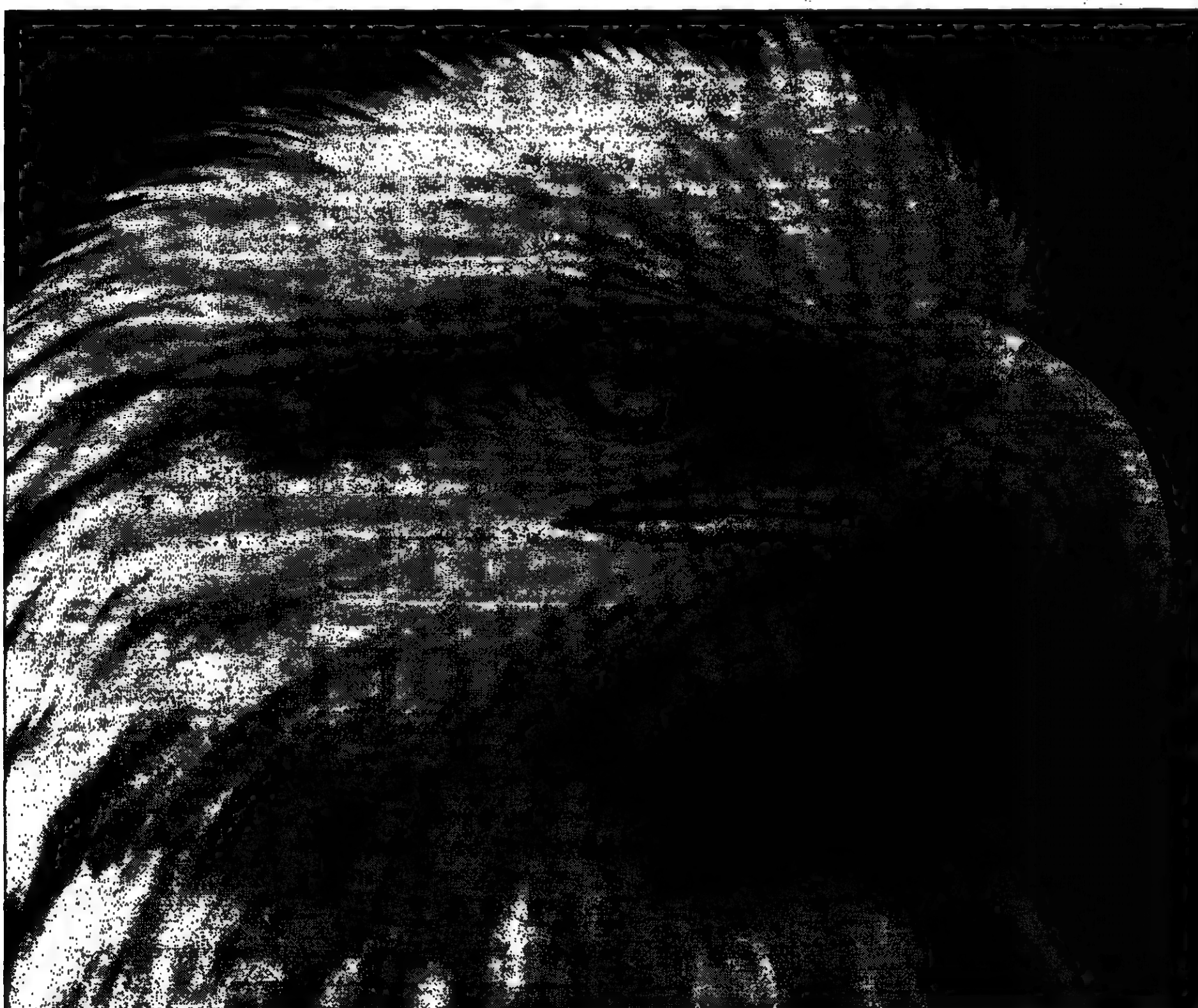
ridden patients from developing bed sores. The company achieved a 36 per cent rise in profits at the interim stage last year.

Jeyes Group has not looked back since a management buyout from Cadbury Schweppes in 1985. The company is closely associated with domestic cleaning and hygiene products but has bucked the impact of the recession by launching an assault on the industrial sector.

Honkheart, a supplier of housewares and DIY products, has also earned a nomination, despite the obvious impact of the downturn in consumer spending on its markets, thanks to the careful stewardship of Paul Lever, the chairman, a former director of Williams Holdings.

Also included is Farepak, the mail order food hamper supplier that lifted profits 27 per cent in the year ended April 30.

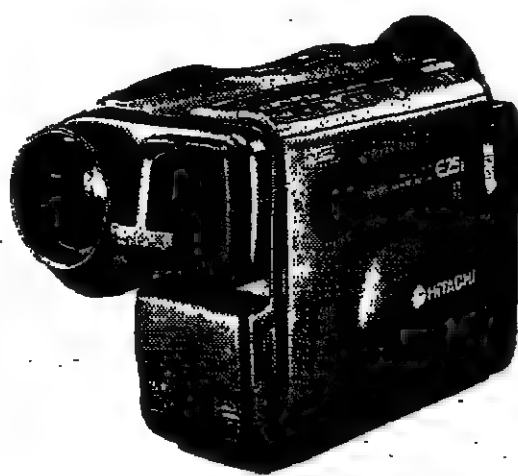
MARTIN BARROW



Hitachi looks video in the AI.

The nature of vision inspires a new view of intelligent video technology.

Thanks to research into artificial intelligence, the Hitachi VM-E25E may be the world's smartest camcorder. It shows an "AI" for colour and shading, zoom power to magnify images up to 64 times, and a Digital Signal Processor (DSP) to function as a brain for processing images with superior precision. Add a twist-and-shoot design along with intelligently-organized controls and it makes great videos easier than ever before.



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Beauty is in the eye of the beholder. Now, the artificial intelligence (AI) of Hitachi VM-E25E expands natural powers of perception.

Burgundy caught in export squeeze

Catherine Dodds says falling demand could peg French wine prices

FOUR months after the harvest, it is still too early to judge the real qualities and commercial worth of France's 1991 wine vintage.

Judging by the drop in the prices at the traditional November auction of the new wines from the Hospices de Beaune vineyards, reds 25 per cent lower and whites 44 per cent lower, the trend in the cost of good burgundies is downwards, towards the more reasonable levels of the mid-Eighties.

By next month, when Bordeaux producers finally decide what they think of the wines from their pint-sized 1991 harvest, the merchants expect the shortage of '91 whites may push up prices.

On the other hand, for '91 reds, they believe, at best, prices will not exceed those of the excellent 1990 vintage.

There is an increasingly tough battle between the French wine regions in their domestic market, where only one in two adults now drinks

wine, and overseas buyers are taking less from France and more from cheaper Australia and Chile. Japanese purchases are down and the American market looks as if it will never revive.

Bordeaux, which is richer than the other wine regions, is this year spending as much as Fr70.8 million on promotions.

Meanwhile, Cahors, another wine region of the south-west, has been steadily making a market niche for its robust and spicy red.

Cahors red received a boost in 1971 when President Pompidou procured for its producers the right to seek the top general classification of *appellation contrôlée*.

The region gained further prestige from the arrival, as serious producers, of Prince Henrik of Denmark, the French-born Consort of Queen Margrethe and Alain Dominique Perrin, Cartier International's dynamic chairman.

Prince Henrik bought the 18-hectare Chateau de Caix. Perrin founded the *Seigneurs du Cahors* (Lords of Cahors), a group of vineyard owners who impose severe standards of production.

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9.59	Add-on Cons	14.50
123.80	Aegis Gp	100	- 2	5.8	7.8	3.0

21.80	AAA Comp	181	=	4	2.1	2.7	13.3
0.82	BBB Design	10
23.60	BBB Rev	98	..	..	4.6	6.3	9.1

30.20	Bemrose	183	11.7	8.6	2.1
7.65	Bighair	67			

390.90 Bond	BT	- 1	5.0	...	14.1
17.40 CIA Gp	150	+ 1	1.2	2.8	11.4
3.55 Div of Long	40	...	1.0	9.0	10.1

7.75	Clarke Hooper	36	9	-	1	4.4	16.3	12.1
10.90	Colorgraphic	64	-	5		6.8	...	7.2

8.25	Croton Lodge	2			
13.60	Cropper Oiled	169	+	5	29 23 168
18.80	Croton Camp	31	=	1	

12.40 Crown Cruise	37	= 3	1.1	1.1	1.1
3.05 Delim Pelongong	36	= 1	1.4	5.4	8.4
12.60 Dolphin Pack	134	= 2	4.3	4.2	12.6

5.21 Dudley Jenkins	86	...	4.0	6.3	36.1
5.20 EW Pace	108	...	1.8	4.8	11.7
17.70 Edmund Long	60		3.0	6.7	13.7

72.30	Perguson Ltd	224	- 4	12.5	7.4	10.1
6.03	Flintoff	27				

3.13	Fach-ES	47	...	1.5	...	20.0
5.57	Gibson Lyons	65	...	2.0	12.3	10.4

25.50	Gold Greenham	200	1	4	5	2.5	3.4	9.3
6.74	Goodhead	45				0.5	...	...
25.00	Hummingbird	14				...	...	...

2.71	JMD Group	34	-	4
10.20	Lopez	45	4.0	4.1

78.70	Most of them	240	...	112	73	104
14.00	NMC Group	35	= 1	15	135	96
8.30	Other NMCs	113		90	107	

5.30	Osborne & Lido	75	-	4.3	7.7	9.2
22.80	Quarco	139	+	4.8	4.7	8.4

254.70	SI Pres Gp	260	+ 4	5.0	2.6	18.4
224.70	Saschd 10p	14 1/2	+ 1/2	...	...	...
1.48	Small Candles	6	...	2.0	...	...

Source: Firststat
 † USM; ‡ Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex
 corp; † Ex rights issue; ‡ Ex alt; § Ex capital
 distribution; ∞ Figures or report awaited; ... No
 significant data.

MANAGEMENT BUYOUTS

Buyer's market for executive dreams

If the company is available, now is the right time for managers to become owners, Neil Bennett says

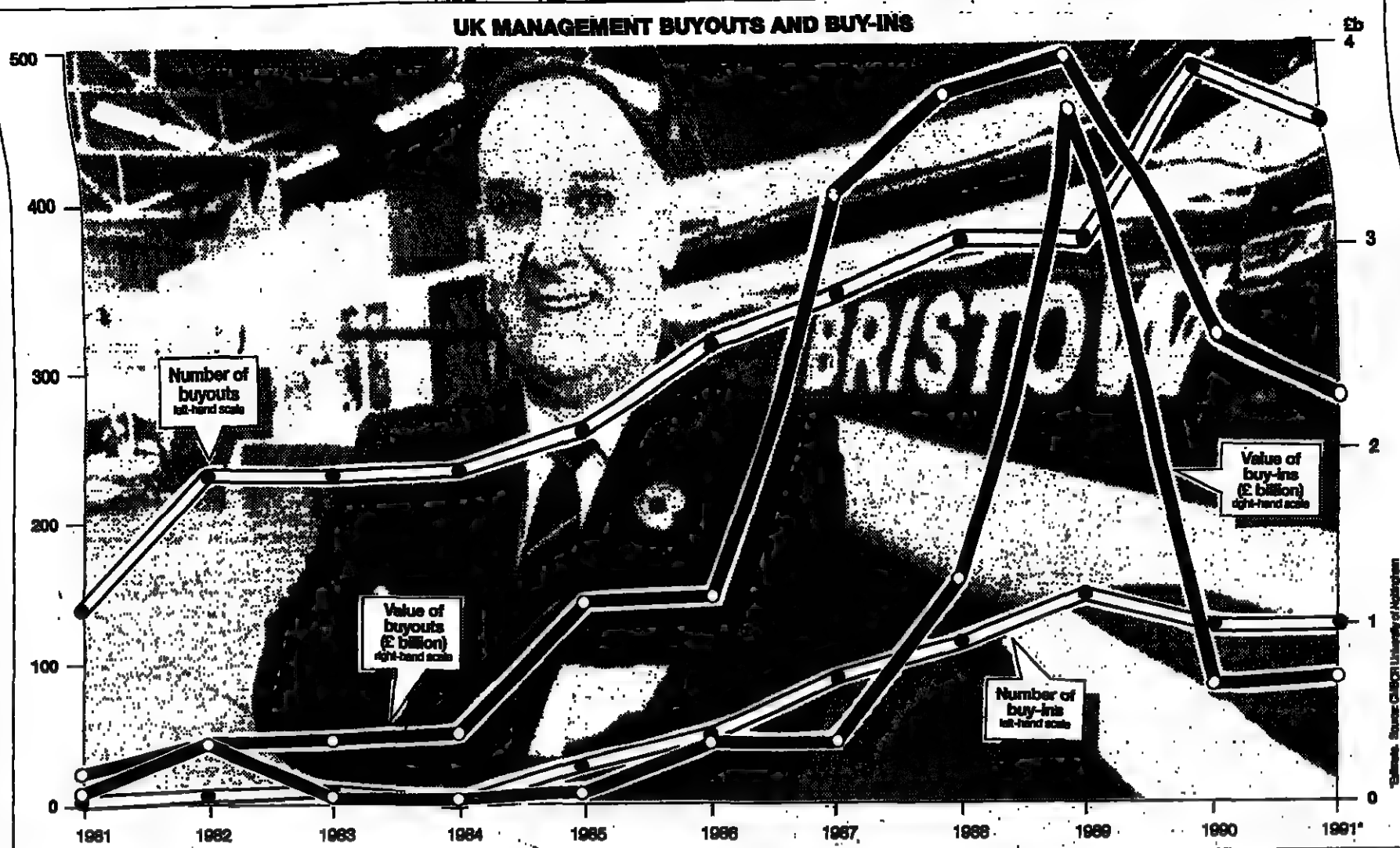
Reports of the death of the management buyout market have been greatly exaggerated. Two years ago, as the recession began and the number of corporate insolvencies was rising, many commentators consigned management buyouts to the dustbin, along with other financial products of the free-wheeling 1980s.

The risks of highly leveraged companies in a recession are well known: there were 46 receiverships of buyout companies in the first half of 1991, compared with only 25 during the whole of 1989.

The buyout market has indeed slumped. The total value of transactions in Britain last year was £2.92 billion, 61 per cent lower than in 1989 when investment peaked at £7.5 billion, according to figures from Nottingham University's management buyout research centre.

There are still plenty of opportunities for buyouts and buy-ins, and banks and investors are willing to provide the debt and equity finance for well-structured deals. The risks of insolvency among buyout companies have led to advisers creating more stable, less highly-leveraged financial structures, while management buyouts have also become an important tool in receiverships.

Buyouts were one of the most startling financial phenomena of the 1980s. The concept of financing a management team to buy a subsidiary from its parent company was imported from America at the start of the decade. In 1980 only 36 deals were



Bristow Helicopters returned to British ownership in the biggest buyout of 1991, a £200 million deal led by Bryan Collins, managing director and chief executive of the company. The success of these early deals alerted executives, lenders and investors to the huge returns that can be made from a buyout and the market grew by leaps and bounds. It peaked last year when 521 buyouts and buy-ins were completed, worth an average of £14.4 million each.

The market has inevitably contracted since then but even so, Nottingham University's researchers estimate there were 556 transactions last year, although the average value has fallen to £5.3 million.

Ken Robble, a research fellow at the Nottingham centre, says that management buyouts are attractive and easier to finance because asset prices have fallen so sharply.

"We are somewhere along the bottom of the recession. Prices are attractive and there is more bank interest than a year ago," he says.

Gus Guest, a director at Prudential Venture Managers, one of the leading buyout backers, agrees: "There was a feeling a while ago that the buyout market was going wrong. I have every confidence, however, that this form of investment is not here today and gone tomorrow. Like any financial instrument, it is a living animal that evolves according to people's needs."

A clear indication of this evolution is the rise in management buyouts from insolvent owners. In 1989 only 0.5 per cent of buyouts came through receivership. By the middle of last year, one in every five buyouts announced came from collapsed parent companies.

Receivers welcome buyouts as a reliable way of achieving a good price for subsidiaries that would be difficult to sell on the open market. Many fee-earning businesses would be practically worthless if their senior management walked out. The executives often know this and may use it as a

threat to ensure their business is not sold to another bidder. Some of the best known receiverships have been settled through multiple buyouts. Coloroll, Response and British & Commonwealth produced seven each.

The other main factor that has kept the buyout market alive during these troubled times is the emergence of vendor finance. Many companies are keen to reduce their debts and dispose of non-core assets, but there are few companies buying new businesses. A management buyout can often be the perfect answer, so perfect indeed that the seller itself is now prepared to finance the buyout.

Nottingham University's figures suggest that more than a fifth of buyout finance now comes from the vendors. The vendor often buys preference shares or loan notes in the buyout vehicle. Many of these carry equity options which will give the vendor the chance to benefit if it succeeds.

The one area where activity is still sluggish is in exits. In 1989 there were 104 buyout companies either sold to another company or quoted on the stock market. These allowed the original equity holders to realise often substantial gains.

In the first half of last year, however, the number of exits was only 12, with no flotations.

Part of the problem is the fall in company values. "If you can hold on to your company for another 18 months the chances are you will get a better price," says Mr Robble.

The stock market is also unwelcoming for smaller companies at present, and a return to economic growth may stimulate a resurgence in activity on the Unlisted Securities Market.

The management buyout has proved its resilience and flexibility as a financial instrument. It continues to act as a beacon for all middle-management executives who dream of one day running their own show.

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Bimbos with brains
come to the rescue

More companies are being run by bimbos but not the leggy blonde types. The term has come to mean a joint management buy-in and buyout.

Patrick Dunne, head of the buy-in unit at 3i, says: "The combined buy-in and buyout has been an increasingly popular form of transaction during 1991. A buyout team may find their chance of success greatly increased with additional managerial skills brought in from outside. At the same time, keeping existing management can mitigate the risk of failure through greater knowledge of the company."

Bimbos are a feasible way of saving parts of companies that have succumbed to receivership. The idea was behind the rescue of Dixon Motor Holdings, a Hull-based subsidiary of the collapsed Corydon Beach group, in an £8.5 million deal.

One classic example of a bimbo in 1991 was Clark Clay Industries in Corby. The company makes clay pigeons, a niche market that clearly benefited from keeping existing management with specialised knowledge intact. On the other hand, with the leisure sector growing, there was a need to bring in outside help with new ideas. The buyout/buy-in from Expedier Leisure cost £1.8 million.

Mr Dunne says new managements are increasingly keen to count existing management in on the deal, rather than to sweep executives aside. He thinks that about a third of the buy-ins that 3i has dealt with in the past year have turned into bimbos, which are now being seen as quite a significant area of the buyout market.

Many buyout deals have been saved from the point of collapse by bringing in outside investors to complement the existing team. Mr Dunne says: "In our experience bimbos seem to be performing better than straight buyouts or buy-ins. Where banks feel that existing management is not strong enough, outsiders can make the deal happen."

Interest in management buy-ins — where an outside management team takes over the business — increased last year but activity is still well short of the peak year of 1989. The Centre for Management Buyout Research at Nottingham University identified 111 buy-ins in 1991. The figure had risen from 50 in 1985 to 144 in 1989, but in 1990 it fell back to 105.

The leading player in buy-ins remains 3i, which invest-

Management
buy-ins offer a
sound route,
Rodney
Hobson says

ed nearly £50 million in 46 deals last year to increase its market share. Most of the deals arose out of family-owned businesses with no clear line of succession when the head of the family retires. Many small businessmen would prefer to remain independent, albeit outside family control, rather than be swallowed up by conglomerates.

One entrepreneur is Tim Worrall, former managing director of Quicks, who has led a buy-in of three vehicle dealerships from Avis for £13 million. "Despite current difficulties in the retail motor sector, the planned introduction of new engines and trucks should coincide with a cyclical upturn in the industry's fortunes," he says.

Gwyn Jones, whose Apples Car Clinics has bought six servicing and repair outlets from two other companies, sees the downturn as a chance to cash in: "It has had a major impact on the sale of new cars. The larger proportion of older vehicles on the road should result in more spending on servicing, repairs and replacement parts. With the long-term forecast for an increase in car ownership, this should provide us with a sound platform," Mr Dunne says.

Mr Dunne sees two types of entrepreneur continuing the trend towards buy-ins during 1992. "One is the successful managing director contemplating his future career path. The other is the second-time entrepreneur, who has already run his own business successfully, perhaps sold it in bull market conditions and is now looking for fresh challenges. With prices beginning to bottom out, many will see it as a good time to buy."

There is anecdotal evidence of another factor that Mr Dunne calls the "boss chop": "Junior executives in their early forties are doing well and gaining promotion because their 55-year-old bosses have got the chop. But many fear the same thing will happen to them. They tell themselves that they may have only seven to ten years to go and they would rather take their own decisions on when they will leave."

PATRICK DUNNE

Bristol brewery in 1977, built it from a three-man operation producing 500 barrels of bitter a year to a business employing 115 people. He then decided to pursue other interests and with no ready successor he sold to a team led by Ian Williams, a former partner at Touche, Ross, the accountants. "I liked the beer so I bought the brewery," Mr Williams says.

F&AE Lodge, a Huddersfield-based supermarket chain, also succumbed to a buy-in after the Lodge family decided to retire. Edward



Where banks feel that existing management is not strong enough, outsiders can make the deal happen

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The spirit of venture lies low

Backers have lost their enthusiasm for taking risks, most overseas banks have pulled out. Jonathan Prynn reports

A recent survey by the British Venture Capital Association reveals that management buyouts fell by about 70 per cent in the past year to £250 million. The slump reflects a number of factors, including the huge overhang of uninvested funds raised in earlier years and the continuing shortage of bank finance for management buyouts and other venture capital deals.

The stagnant state of the financing markets for management buyouts is a far cry from the excesses of the mid and late 1980s when banks, venture capitalists and other backers were falling over themselves to participate in deals. In theory, activity should now be picking up. Purchase prices have fallen, the economy can only improve in the months and years ahead, and, for the banks, lending terms are more attractive than they have been for many years. However, such was the pain inflicted on the banks by their injudicious lending before the recession, that all but a handful of lenders have pulled out of the management buyout sector.

For deals that are winning backers, the funding structures remain as conservative as during the past 18 months or two years. Debt equity ratios of one to one are standard and compare with the average of about 2.5 to one at the peak of the buyout boom and five or even ten to one for the most highly-leveraged deals.

The financing of the recent £125 million management buyout of Midland Newspapers, publisher of *The Birmingham Post*, *Birmingham Evening Mail*, *Sunday Mercury* and the *Coventry Evening Telegraph*, one of the largest deals of the recession period, was typical of the present

trend. The management buyout team was headed by Charles Oakley, managing director of *The Birmingham Post*, and now chief executive of the company.

Almost half the purchase price, £60 million, was equity, provided by Candover and CIN Ventures, and slightly more than half was borrowed. Of that, £50 million was senior debt and £15 million was mezzanine finance. Three years ago, the same deal might have included £30 million of equity, £70 million of debt and £25 million of mezzanine.

On the debt side, the deal was led by the Bank of Scotland, one of the few to remain active in management buyouts. Last year, the bank was the market leader in the sector with 26 per cent. Only National Westminster, and to a lesser extent Barclays and Midland, also had a visible presence in lending to buyout teams. The vast ranks of American, Japanese and European banks clamouring to lend to highly-leveraged buyouts three or four years ago have almost disappeared.

The withdrawal of capacity on such a huge scale has inevitably



The cheque is in the Post: Chris Oakley headed the £125 million deal for Midland Newspapers

had an impact on lending terms. Margins, though fairly steady over the past six months, have widened since 1989 from a low of 1.5 per cent over the London Inter-Bank Offered Rate (Libor) to about 2.25 per cent. Over the same period arrangement fees have doubled from 1 per cent to 2 per cent.

By contrast, the experience for the equity providers has been one of falling return targets. Although debt is in scarce supply, there is a glut of equity finance overhanging the market. Despite the fall in new capital raising last year, there is still more than £1.6 billion avail-

able for investment, sufficient for at least two years and possibly longer. Unlike the bank sector, relatively little capacity has been taken out, although the number of funds still active in the market is thought to have fallen by about 10 per cent in the second half of last year. The market is still dominated by 3i and a handful of high-profile backers such as Electra, Candova, CIN Ventures, Philidrew Ventures and County NatWest Ventures.

Management teams have, therefore, found themselves in a buyers' market for equity, and venture capitalists' internal rate of return expectations have had to be downgraded accordingly. The targets have come down from a peak of 35 to 40 per cent to between 25 and 30 per cent. However, the reduction is reasonable given the reduced risk that the equity providers are taking on because of the lower gearing of the deals. Internal rates of return have also fallen because equity providers are tending to include a mezzanine component in their overall package.

Not all venture capitalists are taking this route. Some, such as Philidrew Ventures, continue to tap

In the eye of the receiver

Five years ago, a management buyout was regarded as a virtually risk-free venture. During the peak of the boom it was almost unheard-of for a buyout to go seriously wrong, let alone end up in receivership (Jonathan Prynn writes).

Sadly, this is no longer the case: buyouts have proved particularly vulnerable to the economic downturn of the past two years and have been going out of business in droves. Ever since 1989, when Response Group, a clothing distributor, became the first large management buyout to fail, former buyouts have made up an increasing proportion of corporate failures in Britain.

Recent figures from Nottingham University's management buyout research centre show that the number of buyouts ending in receivership rose by 50 per cent to 46 during the first six months of last year. Although most of the recent failures have been in the manufacturing sector, there has also been a substantial minority from service and distribution.

However, there is evidence that the number of failures of large management buyouts has fallen dramatically. A report last year from KPMG, PricewaterhouseCoopers and Marwick McIntosh shows that there were no failures of companies bought out for more than £10 million during the six months to the end of September. This compares with 15 such failures during 1990 and the first quarter of 1991.

It is probable that highly-leveraged companies that have survived so far into a recession have negotiated a refinancing deal with their bankers and are sufficiently well funded to pull through.

The other side of the coin to receivership is the trend of small buyouts coming out of larger, failed groups. Early in the recession this was regarded as a welcome method of preserving the subsidiaries of groups where the problems were at headquarters, rather than at the otherwise healthy trading companies they owned.

One of the most successful examples of this was the dismemberment of Colson, the home-furnishings group which failed in 1990. Among the disposals carried out by the receivers were the £10 million management buyout of Denby Tableware, the £17 million buyout of Kosset Carpets and the £20 million

buyout of Staffordshire Potteries. The biggest such receivership deal was the £35 million buyout of United Pressings and Fabrications from the failed Parkfield Group.

However, buyouts of whole companies from the receiver do not seem to have such a happy track record. Recent research suggests that such deals are far more likely to return into the hands of the receivers. The research, by Warwick Business School and sponsored by Touche Ross Corporate Finance, shows that buyouts from a receivership are at least four



Mirror Group: pressure to sell

times as likely as other buyouts to go into a second receivership within six years. According to Touche Ross, such buyouts 'generally represent a high-risk opportunity which requires a re-appraisal of company strategy and a capable management team'.

As the research points out, when a company is in receivership there is generally greater pressure for a quick sale, and just at the time when it is underperforming. So what are the odds for a successful management buyout of Mirror Group, for example, particularly if all its other problems are taken into account?

Even so, three out of four management buyouts originating from receivership do survive, proving that there is life after the receivers have moved in.



"What bugs me is that whenever a buy-out looks attractive, it's unaffordable - but whenever it's affordable, it looks unattractive."

If you need advice about how a buy-out can be both affordable and attractive in today's market climate, talk to Charterhouse Development Capital. Call Gordon Bonnyman on 071-248 4000.



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Pots of money: Peter Adams (left) led the £72.5 million purchase of the Taunton Cider Company, while Derek Hunt (right) and his team paid £718 million for MFI at the height of the 1980s boom

Large management buyouts fell out of favour after some spectacular failures. Now MFI, Europe's biggest buyout when Derek Hunt and his team bought it from Asda in 1987, is ready to put the record straight.

Mr Hunt, the company's chairman, led the £718 million buyout of the furniture retailer at the peak of the consumer boom. Interest rates surged, refinancing followed, and debts mushroomed to £500 million.

Few in the City believed that MFI would ever fulfil its aim to be floated on the stock exchange. Rivals, notably Lowndes Queensway, fell by the wayside.

Yet the management was determined not to give in. Twice a year Mr Hunt and his fellow directors have held press conferences to announce their results, a courtesy that is not extended by many

companies that do have a stock exchange listing.

Each time they have been taunted by the question: when will the flotation come? Each time Mr Hunt has had to admit that there was no foreseeable possibility. Even a few months ago he seemed to be thinking three or four years ahead.

Last month MFI took its first tentative step. It appointed County NatWest as its merchant bank and Rowe & Pitman and Smith New Court as joint stockbrokers in readiness for a flotation this summer.

It has all been achieved at a price. Cost cutting involved the loss

MFI was bought at the peak of the boom. Rodney Hobson reports on its progress

of 1,200 jobs, more than 10 per cent of the workforce. The flotation will probably value the company at £750 million, well short of the £1 billion capitalisation expected in 1989 under the original plans.

The group made a trading profit of £25 million in the half year to November, an increase of 21 per cent over the same period a year earlier. That was not enough to cover interest payments of £35.9 million, but a stronger perfor-

mance last month sent Mr Hunt to look at his calendar.

The return of MFI would be a huge psychological boost for the top end of the management buyout market, where deals of £100 million are now unusual. One of the few in the past 12 months was the Taunton Cider Company, acquired by a team led by Peter Adams, the chief executive.

Even there, the purchase price was only £72.5 million. The bal-

ance of the £100 million raised will be used to fund growth.

Taunton was owned by Bass, Courage and Scottish & Newcastle. Now the 465-strong workforce has been given the opportunity to buy shares.

The next big buyout will be Mirror Group Newspapers (MGN) if Richard Stott, editor of the *Daily Mirror*, has his way. He has been leading an attempt to secure the future of the group after the scandals surrounding the former owner, Robert Maxwell.

The management team has appointed Sir Peter Parker, the former chairman of British Rail

and later of the Rockware Group, chairman of the consortium. It is backed by Electra, the venture capital group.

Like other potential bidders, the consortium cannot make a firm offer until details of the group's assets and liabilities are known.

Some potential bidders have dropped out. They include Pearson, owner of the *Financial Times*, and Lonrho, publisher of the *Observer*.

Others are still lurking. Conrad Black, owner of *The Daily Telegraph*, is reputed to be prepared to buy parts of the group, although he has poured cold water on speculation. Tony O'Reilly, an Irish businessman, is also in the running.

There could yet be a management buy-in. Hambros Bank has expressed interest in putting together a rival consortium to Mr Stott's.

In 1990 gearing levels on the Continent were 2.6, little different from the 2.7 figure for Britain.

The manufacturing sector continues to dominate continental buyouts, accounting for two-thirds of all transactions since 1985. This highlights a greater preference on the Continent than in Britain for less risky ventures with plenty of assets.

However, Peat Marwick detects an increase in activity in wholesale distribution and business services, especially in the Netherlands and Sweden.

Doing the right thing

ITALIAN entrepreneurs are less happy than the British with management buyouts. Yet most felt they did the right thing, according to a survey by 3i.

Only half the buyouts had remained independent, with the rest sold out to new owners. However, none of the managers thought the buyout had been a mistake. They rated freedom to manage and loyalty to the company as the most important reasons for running their own show.

The main disadvantages were being financially vulnerable because of high interest rates on debt, and an inadequate equity base.

Although the availability of venture capital in Italy is growing rapidly, especially from foreign sources, the amount of funds invested is comparatively small, about one-sixth of that in Britain. Only about 15 per cent of that goes into buyouts.

Several factors have held buyouts back. They include legal restrictions on the ratio of borrowing, tax disincentives and reluctance of domestic banks to lend.

Neil Cross, the 3i director responsible for Europe, says: "Some of these factors are now breaking down and since buyouts increased from very low levels in France and Germany we can foresee some expansion in Italy." The scope is enormous. Even discounting farms, three-quarters of employment in Italy is provided by companies with fewer than 100 employees, so the concept of the small entrepreneur is well established.

Many smaller businesses are family owned, and face the problem of who in the next generation will take over. Mr Cross says: "They tend to be dominated by one person and the rest of the family is not interested or is put off by the dominance of the owner."

Larger Italian companies, as elsewhere, are feeling pressures to diversify non-core activities while executives wish to run their own show. So far it has been the family or foreign-owned firms that have been sold in a buyout.

RODNEY HOBSON

Continental flood down to a trickle

The rest of Europe has lost its taste for the buyout

The great surge of management buyouts in continental Europe has slowed to a crawl. In 1990, for the first time, the total value of continental buyouts matched that of British ones at about £2.8 billion, but the position was not repeated last year (Rodney Hobson writes).

Chris Beresford, head of management buyouts at KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, says: "There was speculation that the European buyout had finally come of age. Many felt that the pattern would continue, with continental Europe beginning to outstrip the more established British scene."

However, even a cursory glance at the statistics reveals that this expectation failed to materialise. While the British market has held steady in

1991, the total value for continental Europe has halved.

Taking buyouts valued at more than £10 million in 1990, Peat Marwick identified 58 deals in Britain and 48 deals on the Continent. Last year the British figure had fallen to 43 deals but the average size of each deal had increased. In the rest of Europe, there were only 28 deals and the average size had fallen.

Mr Beresford says: "It is possible that 1990's convergence of values was a coincidence, with the continental market being slower to experience the slump in the values of deals tolerable to the inter-

national banking community."

"An analysis of buyouts in the strongest markets over recent years — France, Sweden, Italy, Germany and the Netherlands — shows that one in four of all buyouts in 1989 were located outside the big five, with Denmark, Spain, Switzerland and even Finland showing activity. In 1991 only a £30 million buyout of a Belgian company prevented a clean sweep."

"Although France and the Netherlands remain fairly active, deals have virtually dried up elsewhere."

It seems likely that as world recession took hold on the Continent, the buyout was able to survive only in places where it was long established.

Furthermore, the continental buyout scene is still dominated by players with strong British connections. Citicorp, although quiet in Britain, has led five deals in continental Europe and participated in a total of 18.

Like Citicorp, Schroder Ventures, which joined 15 continental deals over £10 million last year, has spread its investments over a range of countries.

In contrast, LBO France maintains command of its home market.

For the first time, Peat Marwick has been able to gather sufficient data to consider the trends of debt to equity ratios in continental buyouts. During 1991 the average gearing was about

1.9, with £350 million of equity, £70 million of mezzanine financing and £590 million of debt.

Mr Beresford says: "This is a fairly conservative level of funding and reflects the lack of confidence felt by financiers throughout the year. However, it is higher than the average gearing figure of 1.5 during the same period in the British market."

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Lowndes Queensway buy-out team achieve full listing
When Richard Stott led 20 investors to a management buy-out from Hill Group, the deal was the first in the world to be financed by a group of private investors. The buy-out was completed with the help of NatWest Acquisition Finance.

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MANAGERS HIT TARGET IN £4 MILLION BUY-OUT DEAL
A group of 10 managers have successfully completed a £4 million buy-out of a company. The deal was financed by NatWest Acquisition Finance.

Who's next?

Candover is well known for arranging large management buy-outs and buy-ins and manages a £319m Fund that has provided the equity for the managers of companies such as Blue Arrow and Kenwood and more recently Midland Newspaper Group and Rank Motorway Service Areas.

In addition, Candover is raising a new fund, the Candover 1991 Fund, to finance medium sized buy-outs and buy-ins, mostly in the £5m-30m range.

If you think you could be next, or first, contact Stephen Curran or Douglas Fairservice on 071-489 9848.

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Doing the right thing

The skier the Canadians ignored takes downhill gold from the favourites

Lee-Gartner conquers all

FROM DAVID POWELL
IN MERIBEL

THE Canadian skiing correspondent joked at his own expense: "I was offered Kerrin in the sweep and I picked the Russian; all the best ones had gone." Not that he minded. What a change it was to be writing about a clean Olympic gold medal winner from Canada. In the 100 metres of skiing, would you believe?

Kerrin Lee-Gartner's victory here in the women's downhill, the sport's explosive high-speed event, caught everybody by surprise on Saturday, even her family. "I phoned my parents and my mum seemed to be in shock," Lee-Gartner said. Who would have thought that the 25-to-1 shot, the grafter without a win in six years on the circuit, the racer once retired, would take the most prized of Alpine titles outside Europe for the first time?

Not CBC, the Canadian television network that paid US\$10 million to cover the Games and which altered its schedule to show Kurt Browning live in figure skating, but did not bother for Lee-Gartner; nor Currie Chapman, the former Canada team coach, whose assessment of Lee-Gartner as "maybe a long-shot" influenced this writer to leave her out of his preview.

How had she managed it? "The approach I took was all or nothing," she said. "There was no point in trying to ski well to finish fifth or tenth."

The crash of Chantal Bourmisen, the Swiss, arguably altered the course of events. Her fall caused enough delay for the sun to come out and, some were saying, made the lower section faster. The next four to ski, Katja Seizinger, Petra Kronberger, Lee-Gartner and Veronika Kaserer, finished fourth, fifth, first and third respectively.

Soon after came Hilary Lindh, whose silver medal for



the United States was as much of a surprise as Lee-Gartner's gold. Lindh had unhappy memories of Meribel until now. She was hurried out of town last year as a security precaution when the Gulf War broke out, before she had the chance to race.

It was the most testing course set before a women's field, "the mother of women's downhills," according to Paul Major, the United States head coach. Lee-Gartner is the mother of downhills; at least she behaves that way sometimes. When a colleague went for a night on the town, Lee-Gartner left out a drink and two aspirins to help her through the morning after. The Canadian squad have nicknamed her "Mrs" because she is the only one among them who is married.

Genuine motherhood may be next. "I come from a big family and I want to have a family of my own," Lee-Gartner, aged 25, said before coming here. "But I do not want to quit racing until I win." Now what? "We [Lee-Gartner and husband] have a lot of thinking to do."

There was nothing mummy about the press conference. Instead Lee-Gartner sat next to Lindh, the pair of them behaving like giggling schoolgirls who had just done something they were not supposed to. Which, of course, they had. The North American



Surprise duo: Lindh, left, and Lee-Gartner celebrate their downhill success

one-two made it appropriate for Major to get something off his chest. "They treat us like dogs on the World Cup circuit," the Germans, Swiss and Italians think they own the sport," he said.

Lee-Gartner had not been long in the Canadian team when she retired. "Then I realised how much I loved it and I came back eight months later." Loved it

enough to undergo reconstruction surgery on both knees.

For a while on Saturday she was another Canadian making hard work of Olympic doping control. She had trouble providing her sample and was late for the press conference.

Then she had to be excused halfway through. "I drank five bottles of water, so I had

to go," she said. Had the damage done by Johnson to Canada's reputation upset her? "No, he did what every other sprinter had been doing for years," she said, adding as Katrin Krabbe's four-year ban for a drugs offence was coming to light. "It is a relief that in Alpine skiing, we do not have that problem. The only awkward part is having to pee into that little bottle."

Little praise for Petrenko show

FROM JOHN HENNESSY IN ALBERTVILLE

IT WAS, a British trainer said, the worst Olympic gold-medal figure-skating performance since 1948. One took his point, for all that it incorporated a wickedly pointed barb. The trainer is John Nicks, who has lived in the United States for 31 years.

The 1948 winner was none other than Dick Burton, who is at loggerheads with Nicks for political reasons too trivial to dwell upon here.

The new champion is Viktor Petrenko, of the United Team, followed by Paul Wylie, of the United States, and Per Barmann, of Czechoslovakia. It is not unusual for the men's event to produce a disappointing winner.

Brian Boitano, four years ago, being the brilliant American exception.

There was a strong body of opinion that two American skaters, in particular, were ill served at these Olympics. From this particular corner, Christopher Bowman, their champion and a Nicks pupil, skated the most enjoyable programme, but it raised him only to fourth. Ever ready with a telling observation, he said: "I came. I saw and they kicked my ass."

Petrenko, a superb sprinter over three minutes or so, wilted as usual over the rest of his programme. He opened with his daunting combination of a colossal triple axel to a sketched triple toe loop, and tucked in a triple salchow and

a triple lutz. There was little else. He two-footed the flip, reduced the loop to a double, managed a triple toe loop, fell on his second triple axel and fell into a single axel and flew into a sit spin on two feet. How much one applauded the Australian judge's critical 5.6 for technical merit and 5.8 for artistic impression.

Wylie is a formidable little skater now that he has graduated from Harvard and into the fraternity of triple axel jumpers.

His skating is pure, his lines classic, his silver medal an unsatisfactory reward in the view of many observers on Saturday night. He stumbled on his second triple axel, however, and other imperfections included a failed triple lutz.

Kurt Browning, a worthy world champion these last three years, was a sad figure, clearly ill-prepared for competition after being out of action for most of the season. The rapturous applause the Canadian might have been expecting was replaced by an almost stunned silence as he declined like a sigh to sixth.

Steven Cousins (no relation) the British skater, could not repeat his outstanding performance in the European championships three weeks ago. The inspiration seemed to be lacking and, with it, the rapport with the audience on which he feeds so ravenously in the normal course of events.

Muscovite's elegance has judges in accord

WITH fawn-like grace and high spins, Viktor Petrenko, the Muscovite with Slavic eyes and expressive arms, was to this viewer in a class of his own, never mind the indecipherable oscillations of the nine judges.

The men's and women's figure skating finals are always a compulsive spectacle. Boitano v Orser and Witt v Thomas had provided two of the highlights of Calgary; and now there was a beguiling difference in style among the final group of six on Saturday at the little Albertville stadium, barely a quarter of the size of Alberta's Saddledome.

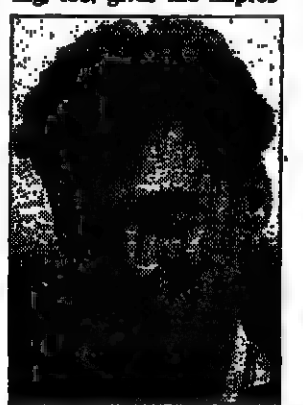
All the Russians, as one still instinctively calls them, have that marvellous fluid movement, so that their action seems a single piece, unjoined, thoughts unattached to the ice. It was the same with Aleksandr Otarmanov and, in the penultimate group, Viatcheslav Zagorodnikov; the latter athletically beautiful, free of dress affectation, an animal who just came out and skated.

Christopher Bowman, of the United States, was all self-conscious muscle and over-confidence in slick, too tight, black pants. Some of the mannerisms came from the bullring, and when he fell near the end he melodramatically overplayed

the misfortune at the conclusion of his music as though it had robbed him of victory. He was good, but not that good.

Young Steven Cousins, of Britain, promising though he may be, would seem to be in serious need of advice on choreography and musical selection. His chosen tape sounded like a car-punching factory in full swing, and someone should tell him also that you cannot gain points on the ice by wiggling your shoulders and winking at the judges. The production, as they say, spoiled a pleasing presence and an undoubted ability.

The Canadian, Browning, too, gives the impres-



Petrenko: graceful

RESULTS FROM ALBERTVILLE

SATURDAY

Alpine skiing

Women's downhill

(Meribel)

1992 winner: M. Kaserer (Ger)

FINAL RESULT: 1. K. Seizinger (Aust), 1:52.72; 2. P. Kronberger (Aust), 1:52.72; 3. K. G. G. (Aust), 1:52.72; 4. K. Seizinger (Ger), 1:52.72; 5. P. Kronberger (Aust), 1:52.72; 6. K. G. G. (Aust), 1:52.72; 7. K. Seizinger (Ger), 1:52.72; 8. P. Kronberger (Aust), 1:52.72; 9. K. G. G. (Aust), 1:52.72; 10. K. Seizinger (Ger), 1:52.72; 11. P. Kronberger (Aust), 1:52.72; 12. K. G. G. (Aust), 1:52.72; 13. K. Seizinger (Ger), 1:52.72; 14. P. Kronberger (Aust), 1:52.72; 15. K. G. G. (Aust), 1:52.72; 16. K. Seizinger (Ger), 1:52.72; 17. P. Kronberger (Aust), 1:52.72; 18. K. G. G. (Aust), 1:52.72; 19. K. Seizinger (Ger), 1:52.72; 20. P. Kronberger (Aust), 1:52.72; 21. K. G. G. (Aust), 1:52.72; 22. K. Seizinger (Ger), 1:52.72; 23. P. Kronberger (Aust), 1:52.72; 24. K. G. G. (Aust), 1:52.72; 25. K. Seizinger (Ger), 1:52.72; 26. P. Kronberger (Aust), 1:52.72; 27. K. G. G. (Aust), 1:52.72; 28. K. Seizinger (Ger), 1:52.72; 29. P. Kronberger (Aust), 1:52.72; 30. K. G. G. (Aust), 1:52.72; 31. K. 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RACING

Carvill's Hill cut to 6-4 after Irish triumph

FROM MICHAEL SEELY IN DUBLIN

**FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN PARIS**

**Austral
S Afri**

Attendance: 45,000

• Surims

	Award	Won	Ag	hd	Void
France	14	14	0	0	0
England	13	13	0	0	0

Lineouts: France 12, England 15.

Penalties

	Award	Goal	Miss
France	8	2	1
England	15	4	1

Record in sight: Webb heads for the line and moves closer to Hodakinson's five nations' points record

spikes French guns

Dawson double

POINT-TO-POINT BY BRIAN BUELL

Results from

chaser, Agathist, returned after an absence of three seasons and showed that none of his enthusiasm had waned when winning the ladies' race for Caroline McClymont.

WEEKEND RESULTS

Five nations' championship

FRANCE 13 ENGLAND 31

France: Tries: Vians, Penaud. Conc: Vians.
Pen: Vians. England: Tries: Webb,
Jenkins. Conc: A Jenkins. Pen: A

PONTYPRIDD 25 NEWPORT 12

Pontypridd: Tries: John, N Jenkins. Conc:
Jenkins. Pen: N Jenkins (5). Newport:
Tyr. Vynlla. Conc: A Harvey. Pen: A

After this defeat, by two goals and two penalty goals to a try and two penalty goals, they seem doomed to the wooden spoon in the five nations' championship. Their only chance of salvaging

Indeed, the back row as a whole made its mark, reducing the threat posed by a French back division four of

second half, Barnes's luck-
pass under pressure gave

Jackson (Salford), S. Unsworth
 Leicester; S Barnes (Bath, captain), S
 Barnes (Worcester), G Baskin (Northampton),
 G Davis (Bath), A Mullins (Leicester), M
 Greenwood (Nottingham), M. Johnson
 Leicester, D Sims (Gloucester), J Cassel
 (Salford), S Clarke (Bath),
 Hastings R McDowell (Ireland).

10 *ran. Red (Div. 1, 1); Busy Mitten*
 (E Bailey, 20-1); 2, *Speed* (Div. 3, Cut
 Above The Rest, 12 *ran. Red (Div. 1, 1)*
 11, *Bluecherry Surprise (D Sather, 2-1)*
 12, *Nearly Solitaire (S Vintage Velvet,*
 11 *ran. Moh. 1-1); Little Lamon (M Moore,*
 11-1); 2, *Brown Lee; S. Glosters. 0 *ran. Moh*
 11-1; 1, *Collysheeky (R Davies, 3-1); 2,**

[illegible]

Villa's young guns fire the bullets to put them through

rienced a Cup triumph with Huddie and Tottenham Hotspur a decade ago, described the outcome as "a travesty", and he can scarcely be accused of wild exaggeration.

Swindon, exchanging swift and measured passes, cut so many paths through Villa's defence that another upset in a competition filled with surprises seemed conceivable.

But no one knew Mitchell at the end of a clean break, could supply the necessary final touch, numerous menacing moves.

Shearer, their leading scorer, carried their optimism; but his was a performance of general uncertainty. He alone, of Swindon's appealing unit, was evidently uncomfortable on the ball. The rest were assured even in the most confined spaces.

Yet their apparent superiority was dismantled half a dozen minutes before the interval. Yorke, for once offered room in which to work, skipped around the challenge of Calderwood and beat Hammond from the edge of the area.

"We had murdered them, and should have been ahead rather than behind," Hoddie

Although their initial thrust by Yorke was parried, Parker picked up the pieces and invited Froggatt to drive home the first goal of his brief career.

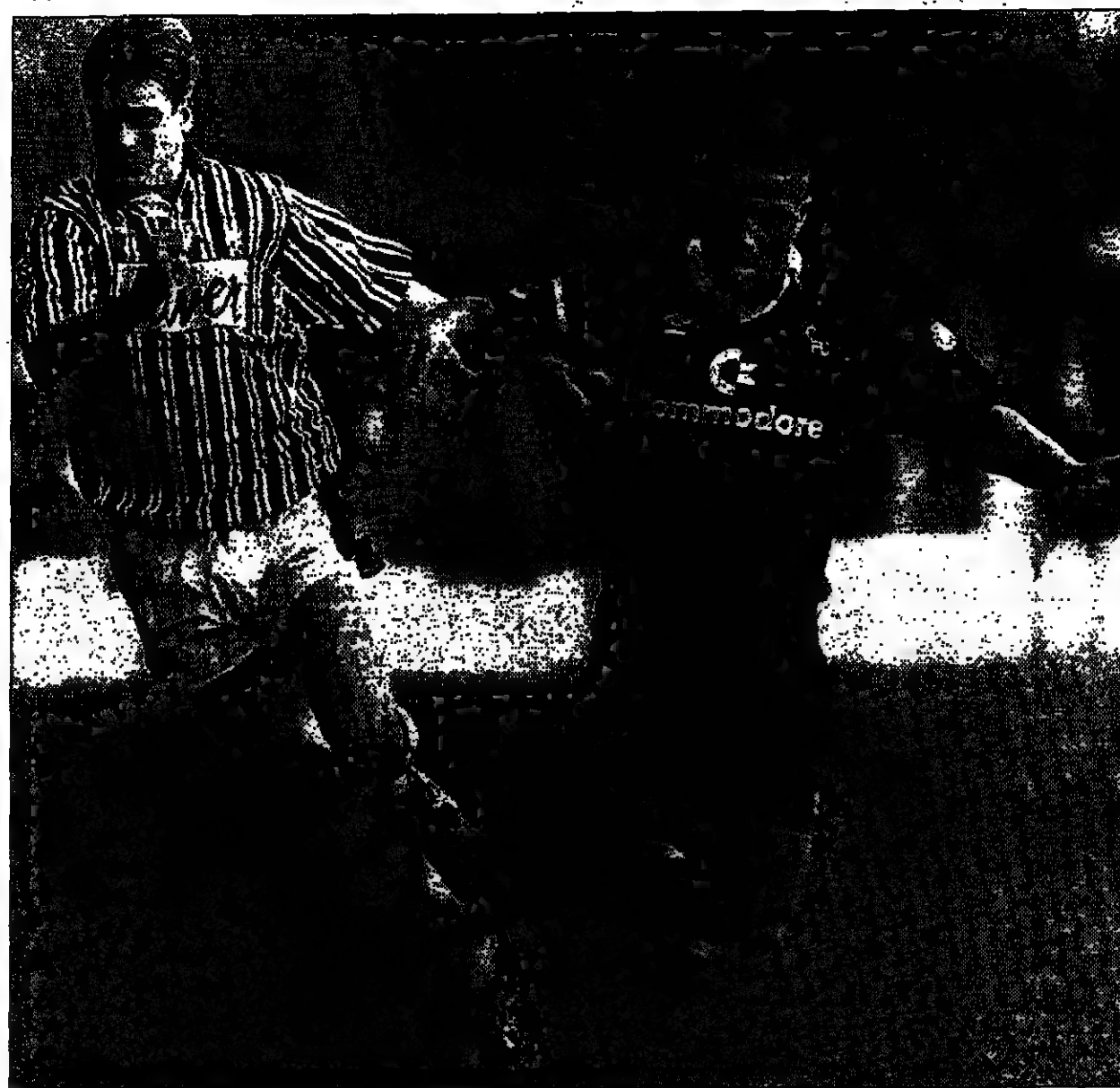
"I'm more than a shade disappointed, but I'm proud of the way we played," Hoddle said.

Indeed they have, and it would be a pleasure to see them there. Their elimination from the Cup will at least allow them to concentrate on their main ambition, which will resume at Grimsby Town next weekend.

SWINDON: N Hammond; D Kerekes, P Bodin, N Ling, C Calderwood, S Taylor, M Hazard, D Shearer, T Jones (a/c: F Brown), R Macnamara, D Mitchell.

ASTON VILLA: L Sealey, G Kubicki, S Staunton, S Tase, P McGrath, K Richardson, A Daley, D Yorke, C Regis, G Parker, S Froggatt.

Referee: R Lewis



Race for possession: Bradshaw, of Sheffield United, left, shepherds Myers, of Chelsea, off the ball.

Chelsea	1
Sheffield United	0

By KEITH BLACKMORE

IT WAS evident within five seconds just how much Chelsea wanted to win this fifth-round FA Cup tie. Sheffield United kicked off and before Whitehouse had left the centre circle, Jones' had chopped him down.

one know that we weren't going to be a soft touch," he said. "I emphasised before the match that we had to be switched on from the start in all departments. Vinnie set the tempo of the game in that first minute."

It only took United a further 45 seconds for Gannon to earn the first of their four bookings (Lake, Beesley and Hodges were to follow) with a lunge at Allen, but in other respects they never really caught up, as their manager, Dave Bassett, acknowledged.

"We were very negative in the first half," he said. "We

went out with the wrong attitude and I was just hoping we could hang on until half-time. But we found ourselves a goal down and while we improved in the second half, we couldn't get it back.

The goal in question was one to remember. In the 24th minute, Allen headed the ball back to Townsend, 40 yards from the United goal. His quick pass found Stuart on the right and the young winger, deputising for the suspended Wise, wriggled past Whitehouse and Barnes before shooting low past Kinnear.

with a match spoiled by nerves and the state of the pitch, but it confirmed Chelsea's slight superiority. Even so, United almost salvaged a replay when Deane sent a header crashing against the underside of the bar. Elliott, a tower of strength throughout, headed the rebound to safety, and steered Chelsea towards the sixth round.

CHELSEA: K. Hinchcock, G. Hall, A. Myers, V. Jones (sub: K. Wilson), P. Elliott, J. Cundy, G. Le Sueur, A. Townsend, A. Casanova, C. Allen (Mk: K. Dixon), G. Stuart.

SHEFFIELD UNITED: P. Kilm, K. Gages, D. Baines, J. Gannon, B. Gayle, P. Beasley, O. Bradshaw, M. Laido (sub: C. Hill), I. Bryson (sub: G. Hodgson), B. Deane, D. Whitehouse. Referee: K. Surpin.

Nottingham Forest.....	4
Bristol City.....	1

BY PETER BALL

NOTTINGHAM Forest could yet revive an old tradition, for the previous year's losing FA Cup finalists to return to Wembley and win the trophy. At the moment they are still on line to establish a new one with three visits to Wembley in one season.

On Saturday's performance in outclassing Bristol City, their visits would be a treat, as the beaten manager, Jimmy Lumsden, graciously conceded, "I hope they win it." Lumsden said, "You want teams who play like that to win things."

The more pertinent question, though, was whether Nigel Clough will get to

Wembley ahead of his team in the white shirt of England. On Saturday the answer was loud and clear.

"He's an elusive little so-and-so, he can always find space and then he destroys you," a chastened Garry Shelton, said. "He takes up very unusual positions, and he can kill you with one pass."

Glough began the execution after only five minutes, a fine turn and pass sending in Keane for the shot that the unhappy Llewellyn ran in. He scored the second, but the highlight was the third

Pearce, who was second only to Clough in influence, won the ball in midfield, gave it to Clough and set off. Clough measured his distance and dropped a 30-yard pass onto Pearce's boot as he burst past the last defender. Pearce's control for a mo-

ment let him down, pushing him wide, but he recovered to sweep the ball in with his right foot. We had glimpsed

It was beyond the compass of Bristol City, who had little to offer but muscle, to counter Forest. That only two of their players were booked said much for Mr Middleley's toler-

Dzickanowski and Sheringham — with a penalty — finished the scoring.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: M. Crossley, B. Lowe, S. Pearce, D. Walker, D. Wessand, R. Kearns, G. Crossley, S. Gerrard, N. Clough (sub: G. Charles), E. Sheringham (sub: L. Glover), K. Black.

Bristol City: A. Learing, A. Llewellyn, M. Scott, M. Aldiswood, M. Bryant, R. Corman, J. Bent, G. Shelton, W. Allison, D. Orlowski, R. Bowring, P. Barnes, N. McGee.

BY LOUISE TAYLOR

CHRIS Woods warmed up for England's exhibition against France this Wednesday by conceding seven goals in Sheffield Wednesday's 7-1 first division defeat at Arsenal on Saturday. Ironically, the Wednesday goalkeeper, who is favourite to start at Wembley, was watched from the opposite end of Highbury by a startled David Seaman, his principal rival for the England jersey. It was Arsenal's first home League win of 1992.

sedate at White Hart Lane yesterday when Crystal Palace beat Tottenham Hotspur 1-0, prompting calls for the resignation of Peter Shreeves from the home crowd.

Blackburn Rovers, the second division leaders, recorded their eleventh successive home league win under the management of Kenny Dalglish at the expense of Newcastle United and their new manager, Kevin Keegan. The 3-1 victory featured three goals from David Speedie, who took his season's tally to 19 but is due for another of the suspensions

that have punctuated his career.

While Keegan was testing for defeat for the first time, his predecessor, his predecessor, turned down an invitation to become manager of Plymouth Argyle.

The career paths of Dave Stringer and Neil Warnock are fast approaching crossroads. The former's days in charge at Norwich might have been numbered had they not beaten Warnock's Notts County 3-0 — featuring two goals from Chris Sutton, aged 18, and Nottingham-born — in their FA Cup fifth-

round tie on Saturday. After the euphoria of two promotions, Warnock has nothing to look forward to but a relegation scrap. The vacancy at Sunderland must seem increasingly tempting.

Sunderland, under the caretaker management of Malcolm Crosby, will reply with West Ham United at Upton Park on Wednesday week after their meeting at Roker. Park finished 1-1.

Mike Small put West Ham ahead early in the second half, only for John Byrne, his attacking partner at Brighton last season, to equalise.

WEEKEND FOOTBALL RESULTS

[illegible]

FORECAST: Dividends will be very good, with a possible jackpot. Eight score draws and five no-score draws. Claims required for 22½, 23 or 24 points.

Bolton Wanderers..... 2
Southampton..... 2

BOLTON Wanderers staged a remarkable, if somewhat improbable, late revival at Burnden Park yesterday to prolong their interest in this season's FA Cup when all appeared lost.

The Lancashire side were trailing by two goals with just 11 minutes remaining at a time when Southampton's supremacy was suggesting that the last remaining third division club in the competition was not so much seeking a foothold in a fifth round tie which their opponents had dominated, as pursuing a policy of damage limitation.

However, amazingly and farcically, Southampton inexplicably relaxed, so allowing Bolton to score twice to set up a second meeting at The Dell in ten days' time.

After Walker had scored what appeared to be nothing more than a consolation goal in the 79th minute, Green, a second half substitute, stabbed home a Reeves' cross to level the scores much to the delight of Bolton's largest crowd for more than seven years. "I'm absolutely delighted," Phil Neal, the Bolton manager, said. "I always felt there was something still there for us. I felt we could still win."

Southampton, diligent in defence and dominant in midfield, always looked the likely victors, but with Le Tissier and Shearer in lethargic mood, Bolton's far from convincing defensive barrier held firm for 26 minutes.

When the inevitable did happen, and Southampton scored, it was more a case of carelessness than inexperience on the part of the Bolton defence.

Le Tissier floated over a corner and Hall, having raced forward into the penalty area from a deep-lying position, was allowed to go unchallenged and place a firm header just inside a post.

Bolton did not heed the warning, and just three minutes later, Southampton doubled their advantage with a goal which was not so much similar in design and execution as identical in every

Again, Hall cut a swathe through the Bolton defence to reach first a Le Tissier corner, and again his powerful header crept between goalkeeper and post.

BOLTON: D Faganis, M Spooner, D Burke, M Thomas, M Corrie, M Green, G Green, G Green, M Peterson, J Davies, A Walker, A Priftalicki, J Darby.

SOUTHAMPTON: T Flowers; J Kenna, M Adams (S: D Lyle), B Horne, R Hall, N Ruddock, L Le Tissier, G Coates, A Brown, J Gerrard.

Chairman: J Lipke

[illegible]

All-conquering England wait to rewrite records



Finger of dismissal: Lascubé is sent off in Paris

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND returned yesterday from Paris and their fifth successive victory over France, looking with justifiable confidence at re-writing rugby union's record books. But the 31-13 defeat suffered by France and, more particularly, the dismissal of two forwards has left the French hierarchy stunned.

Both Gregoire Lascubé, the Agen prop sent off for raking Martin Bayfield, and Vincent Mosca, the Begles hooker, who followed four minutes later for head-butting, were suspended until September 1 by a disciplinary tribunal composed of Albert Agar (England), Denzil Lloyd (Wales), and Marcel Martin (France), which sat immediately after Saturday's match

at the Parc des Princes. They will miss the remaining two five nations' championship games, against Scotland and Ireland, as well as their country's tour to Argentina in June.

They became the sixth and seventh Frenchmen to be sent off in major internationals, though it was not the first time two players have been dismissed during the same game: Geoff Wheel (Wales) and Willie Duggan (Ireland) were dismissed by Norman Sanson in 1977 and Brian Stirling, the Irish official who was on the touchline on Saturday, sent off Tevira Vonolagi and Noa Nadruku when Fiji played England at Twickenham in 1989.

Stephen Hilditch, the Irish official, was escorted by stewards from the pitch when the match ended with the insults

of the crowd in his ears, the French federation mindful of the incident in the tunnel during the World Cup in October between Daniel Dubroca, then the French coach, and David Bishop, the New Zealander who refereed the France-England quarter-final.

That he was correct and courageous to act as he did there is no doubt. The great sadness is not for the two players who misbehaved as for the setback to the genuine efforts made by France, and in particular Pierre Berbizier, the new coach, to restore his country's fortunes.

"Today could stop everything," Berbizier said, "though I hope it will not."

It was *cauchemarlike*, the stuff of nightmares, he added. "For 60 minutes it was a great game, the game I

was expecting. The English team justified its standing, the French tried hard as outsiders. It was the kind of match the five nations needs."

Berbizier's contention that it was not a violent game was supported by English players, with the obvious exception of the last ten minutes when individual French forwards lost control.

Peter Winterbottom said that, hard though it was, it was not the aggressive and dirty match that last October's was.

Berbizier's main contention was that foul play should be "consistently penalised. Though he did not say so he doubtless had in mind what he saw at Murrayfield last month when Wade Dooley elbowed Dodi Weir off the ball during the Scotland-

England match, or incidents during the World Cup, both involving Finlay Calder, the former Scottish flanker.

"If there was violence the referee was right to penalise it," the coach said. "I'm not here to criticise his decisions."

The England management played down the incidents which, in my view, were out of character with the game overall. "The referee acted with great courage," Geoff Cooke, the team manager, said.

Wishing to take nothing away from England's performance, Robert Paparemborde, the vice president of the French federation in charge of the international setup, called for a meeting with the referees or their representatives from the home unions to look at interpretation of the laws.

"We want to know what is

expected of us." Paparemborde said. "We seem to have been playing the same game, but the rules appear somehow different. This is a contentious issue which needs urgent attention. We cannot go on forever having arguments about the referee."

With only their game against Wales on March 7 at Twickenham remaining, England stand now eight points short of the record aggregate for the championship of 102, scored by Wales in 1976.

Victory then would give them the first sequence of back-to-back grand slams since W. J. A. Davies's England team of 1923 and W. J. A. Davies's Wales team of 1924.

Match report, page 26
Distressed Ireland, page 26

Wark's header comes within a crossbar's width of putting Ipswich in the cup quarter-finals

Liverpool escape with a replay

Ipswich Town.....0
Liverpool.....0

By CLIVE WHITE



FA CUP

REDISCOVERING an instinct for goal that was once upon a time second nature to him, John Wark came within the width of a crossbar at Portman Road yesterday of knocking Liverpool, one of his former clubs, out of the FA Cup. It would have been no more than either he or Ipswich deserved.

While a gale force wind made for conditions which John Lyall, the Ipswich manager, described as the worst he had known, there were moments in this fifth round tie when Ipswich rolled back the years to the days when they were more than a handful for the Merseysiders. Whether or not the reason was the sight of the old enemy but it did bring out the best in Wark, who had won the championship during his four years at Anfield but never in his 15 years with Ipswich.

Now in his third spell with the Suffolk club and operating in central defence, Wark, aged 34, provided a formidable obstacle to Liverpool alongside the rock solid Linighan. Time and again the old campaigner rose above either Rush or Saunders to clear Ipswich's lines with firm headers but it was his isolated effort at the other end of the field which evoked a touch of nostalgia.

With the wind to their backs in the first half, Ipswich had allowed three of their corners to be carried out of play before Whitton used it to his advantage to send in two consecutive vicious in-swinging crosses which Grobbelaar did well on each occasion to flip over the crossbar to safety.

The third, however, from the right, after 41 minutes by Thompson, escaped him but not Wark who arrived at the far post with one of those late

runs for which he was once renowned and sent a header crashing flush against the crossbar. "The ball came so quickly," Wark said. "I could only run on to it and couldn't direct it."

Liverpool had been forced into some desperate defensive work in the first half, threatened by the pace of Kiwomya. A lovely little pass struck with the outside of his foot by the England under-21 forward in the tenth minute almost did for Liverpool. Stockwell carried on the good work only for Johnson to head his cross wide. Even with the wind against them in the second half, the second division side continued to look the more lively. All that Liverpool could point to was a disallowed "goal" from Wright.

Liverpool's defence had itself in a tizz again after 65 minutes when a free kick by Thompson snaked its way through much to Grobbelaar's surprise. Seconds later in his desperation to prevent Johnson setting upon a loose ball, Houghton steered it inadvertently against his own upright.

There was no doubting that it was an ill wind but one could not help feeling that it blew Ipswich, in particular, no good. Their prospects for the replay at Anfield may not be so bleak, however, even if Ipswich have never won there in their history. "I'm bound to say," Lyall said, "there's always a first time."

SWITCH TOWN: C. Farnett, G. Johnson, M. Thompson, M. Stockwell, J. Wark, D. Lyall, S. Milner, S. Palmer, S. Whitton, J. Grobbelaar, C. Houghton.

LIVERPOOL: B. Grobbelaar, R. Jones, D. Burrows, S. Hunt, M. Wright, M. Mann, D. Saunders, R. Houghton, I. Rahn, J. Redknapp (capt), I. Kinnear, S. McManis (sub), A. Balaun.

Villa through, page 28
Results and tables, page 28

Batty fit for England

DAVID Batty, the Leeds United midfielder, was last night declared fit to join England's combined senior and B squad for the games against France this week. Batty missed Leeds's game against IFK Gothenburg, of

Sweden, at Elland Road yesterday with a knee injury. Arsenal's 7-1 drubbing of Sheffield Wednesday earned them the vote of Graham Taylor's panel for the Batty's performance of the week.



Ball fight: Forrest is put under pressure by the Liverpool forward, Saunders, at Portman Road

Liverpool and Forest lead betting

By LOUISE TAYLOR

LIVERPOOL and Nottingham Forest are joint favourites to win the FA Cup after yesterday's sixth-round draw. While Forest will travel to either Middlesbrough or Portsmouth, Liverpool must overcome the hurdle of a fifth-round replay against Ipswich Town at Anfield on Wednesday week before they can contemplate the prospect of entertaining Aston Villa at the quarter-final stage.

Should Middlesbrough defeat Portsmouth in another replay at Ayresome Park a week on Wednesday, Brian Clough will take his Nottingham

IPSWICH TOWN or Liverpool v Aston Villa
Portsmouth or Middlesbrough v Nottingham Forest
Chelsea v Sunderland or West Ham
Bolton Wanderers or Southampton v Norwich City
Matches to be played on March 7, 8 or 9

Forest players to his home town and the club where he began his playing career as a prolific forward. While the FA Cup is the principal trophy to have eluded Clough, one of football's minor mysteries is how Middlesbrough have yet to win a major honour. That could

change this season though. Not content with pursuing promotion from the second division, Lennie Lawrence's side is also in the semi-finals of the Rumbelows Cup.

Last year's losing finalists, Forest — who this season are already in the semi-finals of the Rumbelows and ZDS Cups — would not relish a trip to Teesside where Middlesbrough are unbeaten this season.

Ian Porterfield could face the second division team for whom he scored the winning goal in the 1973 final against Leeds United. Either Sunderland, the Chelsea manager's old side, or West Ham United

— they replay at Upton Park next week — will visit Stamford Bridge in the sixth round.

Bottom of the first division they may be, but, providing they beat Bolton Wanderers, the sole third division survivors, in a replay at The Dell, Southampton will be in the sixth round and at home to Norwich City, another team to disappoint in the League but come good in the Cup.

REPLAYS: February 28: Liverpool v Ipswich; Middlesbrough v Portsmouth; Southampton v Bolton Wanderers; West Ham United v Sunderland; SETTING (Wales) 11-4: Liverpool and Nottingham Forest, 7-4: Chelsea, 15-2 Villa, 11-1 Norwich and Southampton, 16-1 West Ham, 20-1 Middlesbrough, 40-1 Portsmouth, 50-1 Sunderland, 50-1 Ipswich, 100-1 Bolton.

Swiss flag flies as British bob pair slip back

FROM DAVID MILLER
IN LA PLAGNE



GUSTAV Weder, a Zurich physical education teacher, proved to be the man in form. Eventually, winner of the European championship two-man bob sleighing at Königssee three weeks ago, he and Donald Acklin yesterday relieved the Swiss gloom at the winter Games.

By a margin of 0.29 seconds, they took the two-man title ahead of the German first and second pairs, driven respectively by Rudolf Lochner and Christoph Langen.

Before yesterday, Switzerland, one of the giants of winter sports, had no more than a single bronze medal. The driving of Weder, the double world champion in 1990 and runner-up in both events last year, came as a national face-saver.

After the first day's two runs Weder lay fifth behind Britain, Italy, Austria, Germany, 2. "I drove from the very worst to the very best in the space of four runs," he said. "I never expected to win after Saturday's bad start."

For Mark Tout, who had driven superbly to lead on Saturday — first on the first run with the fastest time of the championships, eighth on the second — it was a frustrating second day, not improved by a delay of nearly seven minutes on the ice at the start of the third run because of temporary failure in the Swiss timing.

Tout and his partner Lenny Paul took both the incident, and their final sixth position, with a commendably philosophical attitude. Ninth on the third run, with several errors by Tout, they improved for fifth place on the final run, to stay 0.08sec overall ahead of USA-1, which had the \$2.5 million-a-year push of Herschel Walker, the Minnesota Vikings receiver.

Asked if it had occurred to him that had this been a world championship, with only two runs, he would have been the champion, and was he disappointed, Tout replied succinctly: "It has. It wasn't I'm not."

Horst Hornlein, Britain's former East German coach, was by no means depressed. "I feel well, this is a good base for where we're going," he said. "One of my aims was

for the top six, and I was surprised by the first day, I'm not happy about the delay today, but I cannot say I am suspicious. Certainly it may have influenced the chance of a medal, but we shouldn't be hard on our guys."

The two-man event has established how narrow is the difference between the leading dozen teams, now that they all have comparable sledges and most of them the refined Dresden runners.

"They were all feeling the pressure up there," Tout said. "We took full advantage of our starting position yesterday, and its value was probably two-tenths of a second. I'm not saying the delay hurt that much, but it didn't help too much, either. I wasn't as relaxed as the first day and made some errors."

Paul was equally positive. "It was us, and nothing to do with the back-up," he said. "With O'Reilly [the short-track speed skater] called to wish us luck, which was nice. Now he can win a medal before we do." O'Reilly competes before the four-man bob, which is on Friday and Saturday.

It is to be hoped that the management of the British team will have learned their lesson from Saturday, when quite inexplicably they attempted to prevent Tout and Paul speaking to the press. Considering the extent of public money invested in the British team, the willingness of Tout and Henry to talk at almost any time of the day or night, and the fact that Britain were in a potential medal-winning position, the management's behaviour was bizarre.

Olympic results, page 25
Canadian gold, page 25

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Hughes earns a place in Australian squad

Melbourne: Australia have found a place for their Test team regulars, Mark Taylor and Merv Hughes, in the squad for the World Cup, beginning on Saturday. They both played all five Test matches against India but missed all the World Series Cup one-day matches this summer.

The pair has been included in the squad of 14 ahead of the young pace bowler, Paul Reiffel, and Simon O'Donnell, a member of the 1987 Cup team. Geoff Marsh was reinstated as vice-captain, after being dropped for the fifth Test against India.

The squad includes seven members of the side which beat England in the 1987 final. They are the captain, Allan Border, Marsh, David Boon, Dean Jones, Craig

McDermott, Bruce Reid and Steve Waugh. Tom Moody and Peter Taylor were both in the 1987 squad but did not play in the final.

Hughes played only one match of Australia's 4-1 limited-overs win against the West Indies in the Caribbean last year but was recalled with O'Donnell lacking form.

□ Sydney: The Pakistan batsman, Javed Miandad, who was yesterday declared fit to play in his fifth World Cup, has criticised the rules which limit each team to just three reserves for the competition. "There should be at least 16 players in each team, instead of 14, for the most important tournament in world cricket," he said. (Agencies)

England's dilemma, page 25

Krabbe may appeal to IOC court

KATRIN Krabbe and her two teammates could take any appeal to the International Olympic Committee's Court of Arbitration for Sport, a senior German official said yesterday.

Krabbe, the double world sprint champion, and two other top German athletes, Grit Breuer and Silke Möller, were banned for four years for doping on Saturday by the German Athletics Federation.

Thomas Springstein, Krabbe's coach has said the athletes will fight the ban through the courts if necessary. Walther Troeger, the German IOC member and secretary-general of the national Olympic committee, said it was possible that the case might be heard by the Court of Arbitration for Sport set up by the IOC in 1984. "It is possible that a court



Krabbe: fighting ban

case may happen and I find the idea of taking the matter to a something like the IOC arbitration court is a reasonable suggestion," he added. "People like Krabbe and other athletes and officials could be called to answer to it in front of independent

people from other countries." The arbitration court, based at the IOC headquarters in Lausanne and comprising 40 independent members, was set up to deal with disputes not covered by Olympic rules or other sports regulations.

Krabbe won the women's 100 and 200 metres at last year's world championships in Tokyo, where Breuer won the 400 metres silver medal. Möller was the 1987 double world sprint champion.

They were banned by the German Federation for illegally switching urine samples during a dope test carried out in South Africa last month.

The case is the biggest doping scandal to hit athletics since Ben Johnson, the Canadian sprinter, was stripped of the gold medal when he failed a dope test after the men's 100 metres final at the Seoul

Olympics in 1988. Meanwhile, Bill Evans, chairman of the British Athletic Federation, said yesterday: "If it has been shown that there were irregularities, the suspensions are to be welcomed."

"But there have been some worrying aspects about this case — things have been coming out in bits and pieces — and I think the German Federation should be issuing a full statement."

Joan Allison, the British women's team manager, said: "It's a sad day for athletics when anyone is banned, particularly when they have such a high profile."

"But in the long term it will have a beneficial effect if it deters others."

Livingston scare, page 29



EDUCATION
A youthful
verdict on the
controversial
film JFK



LIFE & TIMES

MONDAY FEBRUARY 17 1992



LOOKS
Ruth Gledhill
becomes a
born-again
blonde

Sparring with Terminator Two

True prophet or
intellectual fad?

Peter Stothard
meets Francis
Fukuyama, the
'feelgood'
philosopher

For philosophers, as for footballers and conjurers, timing is everything. To be in the right place at the right moment with the message that people want to hear is the way to great fortune. Francis Fukuyama is an American optimist. He believes that the world-wide triumphs of democracy and the free market now taking place are not only a good thing but an inevitable thing, even the last thing that will ever happen.

His 1989 essay, "The End of History", caught the mood of excitement surrounding the collapse of the Soviet empire and made him famous. His 1992 book, *The End of History and the Last Man*, soon to be published in Britain by Hamish Hamilton, has entrenched his hold on intellectual debate.

For his bold championing of American values he has been mocked as "Terminator Two" by critics on the left. Old class-warriors do not want history to end in a liberal suburban nightmare of watching stock-market prices move on TV. He has also been hailed in embarrassingly triumphalist terms by the right for whom, in George Gilder's words, "the US constitutional order defines the end point of human political history". But after decades in which caution has controlled so many minds working on international relations, Americans have enjoyed sparring with someone so confident, so certain that the whole world's history is a one-way railway-line towards their own home town. Fukuyamism is the "ism" of the hour.

When we first meet, 39-year-old Francis Fukuyama seems somewhat wary. He complains of the "stupid criticism" that his work has received along with its praise. He is slightly defensive. In the mode of the elegantly-suited Japanese diplomats who appear on American TV to defend their trade surpluses, the resemblance is fleeting, however. Unlike them, he takes only a moment to become as fluent as a waterfall. He speaks from his office chair amid a chaos of computer paper, crumpled notes and press cuttings, as though he were the very embodiment of his own neat theory.

This is a man who knows his mind in a way that one rarely finds except among the god-fearing or the hucksters. He looks out at the world and, where others see a global rag-bag of dictatorships and democracies, religious repression and tolerance, race-hatred, nationalist envy, the rise and fall of good and bad regimes, he sees an arrow moving one way only. "The good way," he says.

"History has been moving in a single direction since the beginning of man's time on earth," he explains in well-practised style.



Taking the global view, Francis Fukuyama seems to be certain that the whole world's history is a one-way railway-line towards the traditional home town values of the United States

The process began with the "first men" in their caves, moved through ignorance to knowledge, from despotism to democracy and we have now become the "last men", with nowhere to go forward and no systematic way back.

He speaks with minimum emphasis. His voice would be perfect for a 21st century computer, a mixture of refined English, rich Los Angeles and a hint of Paris. His manner is Japanese courtesy, inherited along with his name, he says, from a grandfather who fled the effects of the Russo-Japanese war in 1905 and was interned in California during the Second World War.

Surely, I suggest tentatively, the evidence for this one-way optimism is merely of the moment? Democracy did not seem to be breaking out all over ten years ago. Other universal theories of history have had their day. Even a theory as crackpot as Marxism was given a seven-decade experiment. How does he know that in another decade he will not be a pessimist?

The telephone rings and he talks to some other seeker after wisdom. In 1918, I am meanwhile reminding myself, Oswald Spengler also became an instant intellectual hero for his *Decline of the West*, a

book which he had begun before the first world war in order to counter excessive German optimism and which he published when his pessimism had already made him a prophet. In the 1930s Arnold Toynbee made a similarly prosperous career.

Why, I ask myself, is this confident computer-wielding individual, with his power-tie and wife-and-child desk photograph, any different from past intellectual fad-merchants? After all, he is not like most foreign policy analysts in Washington, saying merely that Ukraine stands a good chance of being a liberal democracy but Romania does not. He is saying that people everywhere are moving towards that desirable and inevitable end, some more slowly than others, some by tergiversations that appear to confound the thesis, but all moving there by one way or another.

When his telephone conversation ends, I put the same question to him, somewhat more politely. His answer is a patient one. He suggests that we Britons and Americans have been falsely directed away from the work of his own heroes, Hegel and Nietzsche. "Because of their inspiration for Marxists and Nazis," he says, "they are treated as though they

never existed. That is why 'The end of history' created such a stir," he says modestly. "I deliver my thesis in Germany and no-one takes any notice. It is all so obvious to them."

By neglecting Hegel, he charges, we have neglected the whole notion that history has a direction. We have observed the brutal irrationality of the 20th century and assumed that nothing can ever be safely predicted again. The events of the past three years are not an excuse for intellectual opportunism, he claims, but an opportunity to cleanse our minds and look at the world anew.

So what have we been missing all these years? He begins with what he calls "man's progressive ability to manipulate nature". The growth of modern science was the first proof that history is moving in a single direction. Before the Renaissance, he argues, it was possible that cyclical theories of history, or theories such as Spengler's, which saw cultures growing and dying like plants, could have been true. Civilisations rose and fell. As that arch-pessimist, Arthur Koestler, once described: truths as important as that the earth moved around the sun could be forgotten for a millennium.

Now, Mr Fukuyama says, knowledge can only be added to. It cannot be lost. Science produces mechanisation, industrialisation, decentralisation, competitive capitalism and — eventually — liberal democracy.

He pauses, like a good teacher, to make sure he has not lost me before moving on to his second line of argument. From the beginning of human life on earth, he says, individuals have been seeking to increase the "recognition" in which they are held. Materialist models of man's desires, "as promoted by the English philosophers John Locke and Thomas Hobbes" are wrong. Man fights most naturally for spiritual values and esteem. History, he argues, is a story of man's progressive achievement of greater individual worth, the triumph of Christianity, the end of slavery, and, again, the spread of democracy.

The telephone rings again. Further elucidation of man's "spirit" must wait. Being an intellectual celebrity is hard when your secretary has gone home. I look around the institution-cream walls. Francis Fukuyama, who answers to the name Frank, has a friendly framed letter from President Bush's Secretary of State, James Baker. Mr Baker is head of the

State Department, where he worked before fame struck.

He was an unlikely bureaucrat. His mother in Los Angeles liked him working there because of "the steady money". His wife thought he could do better. His job was deputy head of policy planning. He watched over affairs in the Soviet Union and Germany and sat quietly while the titans of the Bush administration argued about whether Mr Gorbachev was "for real", how fast German reunification would come, whether Eastern Europe would be democratic or dictatorial and other issues over which they had virtually no control.

"I never thought that I had a Japanese nature till those days," he says. "The Japanese never like to confront anyone face-to-face. In the State Department there was nothing but confrontations. I found that I used to hate picking up the phone and pressing my way into meeting with people who didn't like me."

His chief enemies were the predominant "pessimists" within the administration, the National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft and his deputy, now CIA chief, Robert Gates. Like Kissinger, they believed in an unending challenge to democracy, either from flexible

and deceptive communist powers, or from the neo-fascists poised to take their place.

"I remember writing a particular memo after the Berlin Wall came down. It just didn't make sense to me that the Poles and East Germans would just give up what they could achieve. Those people really believed in values. I argued for the power of ideology and I was right. That was a time when I was really ahead of the game within the American government. Otherwise I was not really very influential at all."

When Francis Fukuyama left the State Department to write his book, he intended to return. That now looks unlikely, and not just because he no longer needs the money to keep his mother happy. Although he has not directly criticised former colleagues, ("I

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TOMORROW
Ten turbulent Barbican years

the world of glossy magazines remotely seriously? And where, moreover, Maggie Goodman (now editor of *Heat*) gave such a moving speech on the need for "white space" in one's diary that I have barely made a single entry since, and never know where I am meant to be?

TOMORROW
Mid Life: Neil Lyndon

You cannot be serious, Mr Howard

WORKING LIFE
Libby Purves on
the dottiness of
altering the law
on training
contracts



secretary, for this trip down memory lane. This week a white paper (as white and woolly indeed as a newborn lamb) proposed that the government may consider "clarifying" the law on training contracts: thus enabling employers to get money back when expensively trained staff leave prematurely. The employee might pay, or there might be a transfer fee from the poaching company.

The trouble is that it is not always a matter of poaching. Some training programmes are deliberately designed to weed people out. I am told by

coveringly anonymous insiders that if you make it through a Marks & Spencer management course you will make it through anything up to and including World War III. Young policemen at Hendon (don't be fooled by their rather sweet Miss-World type smiles and fresh faces) are being tested as much as trained. Unfortunately, the weeding process sometimes doesn't take effect until the last day, because the victim has determined to show the bastards: does Mr Howard intend to recoup training costs from newly unemployed

victims? Shame! They haven't got any money, anyway. I know one boy who went through three weeks of intensive sales training (residential, 15 hours a day including "brain-gym" groups and chants) came home, resigned and spent two weeks in bed.

One American company did set up a training contract for its British arm: trainees had to pay £4,000 compensation if they stayed less than two years. This fell to pieces when a large group dived for freedom all at once, depositing £100 each with a lawyer to fight their case if necessary. The ones I know have not paid a penny more. Ironically, one of the reasons they left was that they didn't want to belong to an organisation which was mistrustful enough of its own appeal to bind its people with fiscal blackmail (it is blackmail: what normal 22-year-old has got £4,000 or a lawyer?).

One can see the companies' point. A trained sheepdog is worth more than an untrained one and the same goes for people. If the difference in value is showing as a red hole in your budget, you feel cross. And there are a few serious time-wasters around who just adore being trained: it is a bit like the Munchausen's syndrome which takes healthy people into hospital time after time. I remember when adult retraining first took off, several women — lazy wives of

wealthy men — took free secretarial courses although they had no intention of ever wasting good shopping-time in an office. "Ay! I'm doing it to find myself," said one smugly. Puritanism reared within me, and I told her she ought to be had up for wasting public money.

But would the system work both ways? Has Mr Howard considered the fact that some

in-service training is now so potty that it probably reduces your employability? All those leadership courses may turn out leaders, but they also quite unnecessarily reveal flaws. Can a chap sue for loss of future earnings and credibility if the management forces him to walk up Helvellyn, sleep in a plastic bag, put on a pantomime and admit in front of the whole market-

ing department that he is frightened of spiders? Or if he gets so emotionally bonded to the rest of his group (after the night in the plastic bag) that he dare not take up better offers for fear of trauma?

Come to that, can I demand compensation from Condé Nast for once sending me to a Magazine Editors' Seminar which has prevented me from ever again taking

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MARILYN KINGWILL

ings" parts. All the dancers must equally hold the attention as they break in on each other's solos and duets, come together in an ensemble, or simply move round the edge while something important happens elsewhere. The ones from the home team who succeed best are Deborah Bull, Michael Nunn and Bonnie Moore.

Darcey Bussell has the liteness but her phrasing does not yet convince: Peter Abegglen, Gillian Revie and Deborah Jones setze their moments. The total effect is exciting. Now, will the Royal Ballet and its audience learn to live with this?

JOHN PERCIVAL



Somewhat elevated: Laurent Hilaire, Dorcey Bussell in new Forsythe ring" parts. All the dancers must equally hold the attention as they break in on each other's solos and duets, come together in an ensemble, or simply move round the edge while something important happens elsewhere. The ones from the home team who succeed best are Deborah Bull, Michael Nunn and Bonnie Moore.

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JOHN PERCIVAL

native cordoning for the woodwind.

Simpson, 70 last year, is now recovering from a stroke. He was in the audience to receive the check after a performance by the London Philharmonic under Simon Rattle, which, though it had technical shortcomings, was persuasively shaped and strenuously maintained.

This was framed by music that Simpson has eloquently analysed: Nielsen's short *Pan* and *Syrinx* and Beethoven's Seventh Symphony. Rattle presented a tremendously wild interpretation of the latter, with gusty accelerations, clipped "period" phrasings and a manic dash through the finale.

either bank, performed the London premiere of Nigel Osborne's *The Sun of Venice*, with the composer conducting. The title comes from one of Turner's Venice paintings, while Osborne's instrumental layout is derived from the antiphonal pieces that the 17th century Venetian composer Gabrieli wrote for St Mark's.

The connection? Osborne links Turner's exploration of direct, reflected and refracted light with Gabriel's exploration of spatial sound effects. Osborne's own piece moves from fairly obvious ideas — the same chords passed across the hall: simulations of mingled peals of bells — into far more complex passages. *The Sun of Venice* was over-extended, perhaps, but at its peaks it surged with excitement, and the final duet for trumpet and horn soloists (Richard Wadkins and Mark David) was memorably evocative.

RICHARD MORRISON

verve lacking in Scottish Opera's current revival of Mozart's version. The cast play in their own accents, and this works so well that, in the odd moments when Ranjit Bolt's wonderfully fluent translation sounds uneasy, you wish that the Lyceum had gone the whole hog and "Scotched" the play, as Liz Lochhead did so memorably with *Tartuffe*.

Kathryn Howden and Michael Nardone, as Suzanna and Figaro, are simultaneously light and powerful. Nardone in particular handles his switch from comic character to mouthpiece of the moralising dramatist well. A measure of the balance of Woodridge's production is that the inclusion of so much of Beaumarchais's political epilogue in no way interferes with the flow of the last

Muriel Romanes's countess is perhaps too stylised to be the sympathetic moral figure at the centre of the intrigues, but she and 'I am Dean Burn, as the count, provide a perfect foil for the servants. *Bob Carr* and *Ann Louise Ross* as Bertie and Marceline are suitably creepy and fawning, and Jimmy Chisholm as Cherubin loses no opportunity to exploit his unique brand of comic invention. The central characters are surrounded by a gang of grotesque servants whose repertoire of funny walks and faces is deployed in a fairly disciplined fashion.

With its incidental Scottish music and outrageous send-up of tartanry, this production bodes well for an overhaul of the Lyceum's tottering ancien régime of flagging invention and half-baked productions.

ALASDAIR CAMERON

His misogyny is already apparent: Wife Number Two is conducting an affair under her husband's nose and Wife Number One's impulse toward remarriage is based solely on her spiteful wealth and his villa's proximity to the sea. Nevertheless, Coward gives both the wives decent lines and Melancton Ramsay creates a rounded portrait of spilt: Cloely (Number Two), sliding sideways to avoid the unwelcome embrace of husband George (Charles Edwards, nicely dry).

In this production, ably directed by Derek Martinus, the play's funniest scenes turn out to be those which

involve Cicely's lover Roddy. On the page he appears to be merely a dimwit. On stage, however, David Curzon, wide-eyed and in a constant state of near-panic, turns him into an engagingly daffy man-about-town.

Curzon's body is never quite where his mind is, as he awkwardly searches for side-pockets into which to plunge his hands casually, or for table-tops where he can idly rest his fingers. The proposal scene when he and Cicely smooch the sofa's cushions in an attempt to control their ardour is an inspired sequence.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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[illegible]

Danger stalks every stage

TELEVISION

Benedict Nightingale assesses the mesmeric acting of John Malkovich, who starred in last night's BBC film

There is a kind of drama, more common in America than here, that begins by snarling and snapping at its subject with every show of purposeful malice. It is only later that we twig that those bared teeth, if not actually made of papier-mâché, have too lax a bite to cut through anything much tougher than pap. In short, a promising piece ends by going soft and sentimental on us, as *The Object of Beauty* proceeded to do on BBC 2 last night.

Still, Michael Lindsay-Hogg's film did at least give us a fresh chance to look at a talent for whose versatility much continues to be claimed. John Malkovich played Jake, an American speculator whose jet-setting life was getting seriously unstitched in London. His cheques were bouncing, the cocoa in which he had invested was dumped into the sea by striking workers, his hotel bill was mounting, and his spoiled girlfriend fretting at her velvet bit. Since his savvy seemed to be fading faster than his good looks, and he had no other resources to draw on, only some debt skulduggery with the plot could save him and his love-life as it duly did.

Yet even the film's warts — of which more in a moment — somehow contrived to embellish Malkovich's growing reputation. What an odd, fascinating actor he is. He was a founder-member of Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre and a pioneer of what came in the early 1980s to be known as "rock-and-roll theatre". This did not mean that he went in for twanging electric guitars beside Lake Michigan. Rather, the tag described an immediacy of acting that seemed to embody

the brash vitality of the Windy City itself.

Malkovich's performance in Sam Shepard's *True West* was a strong enough example of the style to transfer to New York and win him a national reputation. The character he played was nominally a brutish drop-out, but was actually meant to represent the Old West and the human id in all their wildness. It was an improbable task, but one to which Malkovich took as naturally as fire to straw. Suddenly America had a stage actor who could authentically smoulder and genuinely blaze a dangerous blend of brand and Brando, or so it seemed.

Yet there are dangers in danger itself. That became evident when Malkovich came to London in 1990 as the turbulent restaurateur in Lanford Wilson's *Burn This*, a role he first performed in New York. The character was actually a supporting one, important because the heroine rejected her respectable boyfriend for him; but nobody would have guessed from Malkovich's performance that it was more her play than his. He fazed and flailed, outrageously upstaging Joan Allen on Broadway and Juliet Stevenson here. It was the best worst piece of acting I had seen — well, since Olivier's brilliantly awful *Othello*.

But it was not merely bravura narcissism or exhibitionist swank. American performers have a tendency to be more instinctive and emotionally impulsive than their English counterparts, and sometimes this leads them to plunge headlong into the error of serving the part rather than the play.

The more exciting the actor, the worse the fall.



Mature and reconciled: John Malkovich as Jake and Andie MacDowell as Tina, in Michael Lindsay-Hogg's *The Object of Beauty*

Malkovich's inner honesty was not in doubt, and it has often taken more subtle forms. Different as they were, the journalist in *The Killing Fields*, the swinger in *Eland* and the seducer in *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* all had a sort of stealthy intensity, intelligent, watchful, compelling.

For myself, a key moment occurred in 1984 in New York, when Malkovich played Biff to Dustin Hoffman's Willy Loman in Miller's *Death of a Salesman*. The two characters, son and father, had been at odds throughout the evening; but then came a reconciliation that was touching and more than touching. Malkovich's

repressed devotion burst out in sudden, racking sobs; Hoffman cradled him; and there was an audible sniffing from the stalls around me. We had blundered into the back-alley of someone's heart, the place where the most embarrassingly intimate secrets were hidden.

That sort of bond can only be fashioned between a major actor and a live audience. Television cannot conjure up the same magic, and, needless to say, *The Object of Beauty* did not do so last night.

The title referred to a tiny Henry Moore head owned by Jake's girlfriend Tina, and improbably left on show in

their hotel suite. He wanted to sell it to cover his debts; she was determined to keep the one thing of value she possessed; and, when it vanished, each suspected the other of foul play.

But as gradually became apparent, the thief was the deaf-and-dumb chambermaid whom, in a symptomatically crude scene, a social worker had blackmailed the hotel into employing. To everybody else the sculpture meant no more than cash or collateral. To this unspooled soul, marooned in a drab council flat, "it spoke and I heard it". But that was not the

last or worst of the film's sentimentalities. Somehow the recovery of the bronze managed not only to mature and reconcile Tina and Jake, but to leave them dreaming of parenthood on a Sardinian beach.

Since the film's main success was to evoke their selfish, loveless lives in all their louché opulence, this seemed a lot to ask us to believe. But if we didn't, neither Andie MacDowell nor Malkovich were to blame. She sought to give the bright, brittle Tina a little vulnerability; and he did the same, notably in a scene when he failed to ask the powerful father on the other end of the phone for the money he needed. A history of fear and humiliation was momentarily inscribed on that long, arrogant face.

ARTS BRIEF

Alice in rap land

AFTER the recent updated, all-black film of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, the next British classic to receive an American facelift is *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. New Line Cinema, distributor of the *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* movies, has announced *Yo, Alice!*, a low-budget musical in hip-hop style. Maurice Hines, brother of actor-dancer Gregory Hines, co-wrote the new storyline from Lewis Carroll's book; he will also supply the street-smart choreography.

Striding away

SECOND Stride, the "performance art" group which last year campaigned long and loudly to retain its Arts Council grant, has secured its future. Its funding difficulties stemmed from its hybrid style — a mixture of dance, theatre and visual art — which did not fit easily into any of the Council's traditional departments. Now a new department, "Combined Arts", has been founded to cater for the growth in performance art. Second Stride, which begins a ten-day season at the Riverside Studios in Hammersmith on Wednesday, has now been given funding for the next three years.

Last chance...

Brutal Irish businessman, finely played by Tony Doyle, meets feckless English quack, aka Barry Foster, in the belief that the latter's psychobabble can teach him to sing like a great Italian tenor. Tom Murphy's *The Night Concert* has improbably, but it is still sharp and stimulating enough to be worth catching before it closes at the Almeida (071-359 4404) on Saturday.

TOMORROW

In Life & Times

Clive Davis on a

jazz legend

currently

touring Britain

Asia's treasure abused

COMMENT

Richard Cork

While scientific advances conserve works of art with greater sophistication than ever before, our attitude towards them remains in other respects barbaric. All the major London museums, with the exception of the National Gallery, display only a fraction of the objects they own. Visitors to store-rooms are greeted by a melancholy spectacle. Thwarted exhibits, many of which would give enormous pleasure if placed on view, are consigned to oblivion without any prospect of release.

Now, with the government's abrupt cancellation of plans for a "V & A of the North", the crisis has deepened. A European Regional Development Fund grant of £8 million promised to make this ambitious Bradford-based venture a reality. But the Department of the Environment, in a decision believed to have split the Cabinet, has decreed that the grant cannot be accompanied by money from public funds. Since the scheme's overall cost is £21 million, the Victoria & Albert Museum has dropped the idea.

The result is a tragedy for Bradford, the V & A's re-

gional expansion, and the Asian collections which would have been displayed in the new museum. Unsurprisingly, the government was promised for Manningham Mills, the site where the largest silk mills in the world were erected over a century ago. But now, deprived of the 500,000 visitors expected to visit the "V & A of the North" each year, the area will remain blighted.

If the museum had gone ahead, it might well have enjoyed the popularity of the Tate's thriving branch in Liverpool. An insatiable demand exists for museums outside the centralised abundance which Londoners enjoy, and Bradford's large Asian population would have made the city an ideal location for the V & A's outstanding yet much-abused Indian collections.

By turning down the Eurogrant for this proposal, the government implies that it does not care about the invisibility of the nation's Asian holdings. But the truth is that the V & A is fortunate

enough to possess 35,000 objects in its Indian collection alone. First amassed by the East India Company in Leadenhall Street, the collection was taken over by the V & A in 1879.

For years, the collection languished in former exhibition buildings far removed from the V & A's premises. Then, in 1955, the buildings were demolished and the bulk of the items placed in storage. More than 30 years passed before the V & A opened a new display of the arts of India from 200 BC to AD 1500, and in 1990 the redesigned Nehru Gallery revealed some of the riches of the Mogul era collections. At long last, Britain had begun to fulfil Jawaharlal Nehru's hope in 1946 that India would "reclaim its universal history the rank that ignorance has refused her".

But much remains in storage, and the collapse of the Bradford plan means that the objects will probably stay incarcerated for many years to come. If works of art are unseen, they cease to exist in all but name. The government's action suggests that we do not deserve to have custody of these treasures.

Gypsy casts her spell

RECORDS

Balfie: *The Bohemian Girl* Thomas/Power/Summers. National Symphony Orch. of Ireland/Bonyngue. Argo 433 324-2. (2 CDs)

Gershwin: *Strike Up the Band* Luker/Barrett/Chastain/Mauceri. Elektra Nonesuch 7559 78273-2. (2 CDs)



Back to Balfie: Richard Bonyngue

an Irish orchestra to play Balfie. He was strong on melody, particularly of the ballad variety, and sharp enough to borrow the better tricks of his contemporaries. There are several hints of Rossini, while the graceful waltz and galop ending Act I

are pure Auber. Richard Bonyngue is snugly at home in this period, and so too are his players.

The score's most famous number, "I dreamt I dwell in marble halls", in which Arline half-persuades herself that she was not always a gypsy child, was a Joan Sutherland recital favourite. Nova Thomas on Argo does not have the Sutherland ring of confidence, but she carries much sweetness of tone.

Patrick Power has charm in plenty as Thaddeus, the Polish exile who marries Arline after a few nasy bullets have been diverted in the last act. The tenor's Act III ballad "When other lips" was a Victorian drawing room favourite and Power makes it clear why.

Jonathan Summers is rather more extended as Arline's father. But all round this is an agreeable cast, bolstered by Irish actors for the modest amount of dialogue, in a most agreeable set.

When MGM filmed Gershwin's *Strike Up the Band* in 1940, with Judy Garland and Mickey Rooney dancing away, the only number left in was the title march. John Mauceri has

disinterred the rest of the score, including the numbers snipped on the long road to Broadway.

It shows George and brother Ira very much in Gilbert and Sullivan mood: sweet songs, saucy rhythms and plenty of contemporary references. The plot itself (by George S. Kaufman), of a phoney war between the United States and Switzerland over the price and content of cheese, could have attracted Offenbach had he been born at the right time.

Mauceri uses a small band and the lightest of touches. His arch rival in the matter of

exhuming musical bodies, John McGinn, would undoubtedly have gone for a brassier noise — witness his *Annie Get Your Gun* (EMI CDC 7 54206 2).

The voices, too, are on the light side, with the boys (led by Brent Barrett as a romantic journalist and Jeff Lyons as a handyman hoover) outshining the girls. It all zips merrily along with such well-known numbers as "The Man I Love" and "Yankee Doodle Rhythm". But spare a thought for "Mademoiselle from New Rochelle", which did not make it to Broadway but has a welcome re-appearance in the appendix of musical discards.

JOHN HIGGINS

The end of history?

Continued from page 1

went through the manuscript carefully filtering out passages where I had been too hard on other people" the book would not be easy bedtime reading for President Bush.

The President, who is busily portraying himself to voters as the victor of the Cold War, rates only two mentions in the new book. The first describes how success in war is a powerful aide to lack-lustre presidencies. The second points out that, compared to the challenges of past great men, the causes served by a "Donald Trump or George Bush" are "not the most serious or the most just".

When Francis Fukuyama was an obscure official, it hardly mattered that he saw the President's "New World Order" and newly empowered United Nations as conferring far too much dignity on illegitimate non-democratic regimes. Now, it would matter a lot. Mr Bush, whose own model of history is a large shallow paddling pool in which friendly prime-ministers play, would not appreciate a well-known independent mind in his house.

It is true that philosopher-

bureaucrats have made progress of their own during the onward march of history. Dissidents no longer face the fate of predecessors such as Seneca, who in 65 AD slashed his wrist on the orders of the Emperor Nero, or of Francis Bacon (an early enthusiast for technology-driven utopias) who became Lord Chancellor before being sentenced to the Tower of London in 1621.

Nevertheless, Mr Fukuyama, who is working on a government-sponsored Rand Corporation study of Japanese-American relations, expects his next job to be in a university. I ask him what would make him change his mind about the "end of history". If Poland became a dictatorship? If Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party became even less liberal, less democratic and less like a party than it is? If Islam swept through Africa?

Hegel, Mr Fukuyama recalls, declared the "end" also as a result of a real-life event of his day, Napoleon's victory over the Prussians at Jena in 1806. For Hegel, that was the moment when the best ideals of the French revolution triumphed permanently over

the old aristocratic order — a triumph that remained in place for Hegelians, despite such apparent reverses as the restoration of the French crown.

Mr Fukuyama is equally prepared to accept reverses without abandoning his cause. "There are bound to be ups and downs in the former Soviet empire. And if existing democracies start being replaced by authoritarian regimes, which can also run very successful advanced economies, I will treat them as just another interim stage in the journey."

I try to press him further. What would really restart history?

"Something arising from the open-ended development of science," he suggests, "like a technique by which every schoolboy could make a nuclear bomb out of garage-scrap. Illogical central control would then be the key to survival."

I ask again. Anything in the spiritual area? He thinks. "Possibly a complete change in sexual politics, an adoption of matriarchal societies, something like that." Francis Fukuyama does not think that "something like that" is going to happen.

How to join the debate

The author Francis Fukuyama has set the scene: in 1989 he said that a liberal democracy will be the only viable political system in a post-ideological world. Provocative enough. Now, in his new book, *The End of History and the Last Man* (to be published here on March 5 by Hamish Hamilton), he has expanded his thoughts. Is he right? Is this the sort of future we really face?

Do Fukuyama's arguments, strongly expressed in today's accompanying arti-

cle stand up? If not, why not? The Times has invited Francis Fukuyama to qualify his views at a testing debate: The End of History debate, at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1, on Thursday March 5, starting at 7.30pm.

The chairman will be Simon Jenkins, the editor of *The Times*. The speakers will include Norman Stone, Professor of Modern History, Oxford; Roger Scruton, Professor of Aesthetics,

London; Ernest Gellner, Professor of Social Anthropology, Cambridge; and Tessa Blackstone, Master of Birkbeck College and front-bench Labour peer.

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Mary Wesley was once more in the centre of a media circus last week. The familiar upper-class tones were again telling the story of her late-flowering life in a dozen interviews. There was a press party at Searcy's, where her straight-backed, sticklike figure was surrounded by people saying what a marvel she is in her 80th year, and so fiendishly productive, turning out almost a novel a year for the last decade.

Until last week she had seemed a sacred cow who would always bask in praise. Then a fellow novelist, Anita Brookner, came out in *The Spectator* and questioned Wesley's "enthronement as a kind of icon" who has "accrued to a state beyond criticism". Brookner found her new novel, *A Dubious Legacy*, with its "minuscule" plot and poisonous main character, "very slight, very unreal, very tedious".

Wesley appears politely impervious to this iconoclasm. "When you're very successful people want you to be slapped down. It's a very human thing to do."

In her dustjacket photograph, she is seen in profile beneath a black hat "bought in a second-hand shop after a bibulous lunch", posing on a bridge in Venice on

her 70th birthday. It was the moment her life changed out of gloom and poverty for ever with the publication of her first book, *Jumping the Queue*. Her story heartens others, who would wish, like her, not to go gently into that good night, but spark up with a late but vibrant flame.

I am sorry she resists writing about her own life. It would be at least as extraordinary as that of her fictional characters. She still regrets her lack of education (she had governesses) and never having had any girlfriends — odd, because her books are full of women characters, like the Sloaneys girls in her latest, the sort who marry sensibly and then do exactly as they please. But she says there will be no autobiography. "I am by nature secretive. And either you write the truth, and nobody will ever speak to you again, or you wait till they're all dead, and you're too old to write it. I would rather keep whatever I still can to myself." Besides, she finds these recurrent interviews unnerving. "It is frightening, to have to be of interest. I was always

Another good book about bedtime

Ten years after Mary Wesley's first novel, the flak has started.
Valerie Grove meets a woman untroubled by recent criticism

the watcher and the listener." She was once rather beautiful, and possibly rather selfish in that careless, aristocratic way. She thinks she was a hopeless mother ("but no mother comes awf well"). Her son, Toby Eady, recalls undiluted misery at his prep school. That is a commonplace, but she declares — too late — she would never send her sons away today.

With her first husband, Baron Swinfin, who she always describes as the laziest man she ever knew, she lived in a grand London house with a full complement of servants. "God knows what I did with myself. Went out to lunch, shopped, went to the cinema, shopped." Then came the war, turning everything upside down: divorce, and re-marriage to the foreign correspondent Eric Siepmann, the love of her life. His death, when their son Bill was 16, deeply depressed and traumatised her. "But I was very



A child again: Mary Wesley

English and bottled it up." She based her latest anti-heroine, who spends all her time in bed, on a woman she once knew. "She took to her bed and remained there. I don't know why. She may have been in a depression, but to bed she did. Houses

used to be so cold: bed was often the most comfortable place. I remember often going to bed at eight with a book and the radio. Reading in beds one of the great pleasures of life. And when I was in the country with the children I would go to bed to get away from them; pretending to have a nice little illness. Which is all right if you have someone to open the door. And a large bed I have no time for single beds."

She watched some of the filming of her soon-to-be-televised second novel, *The Camomile Lawn*, with which she is delighted. "But you know how boring it is to watch filming: they have breakfast, then they have breakfast, then they have breakfast... it couldn't have been duller. I said you'll never find such a house, but they filled an aeroplane and found one. Not the right style, of course. And the clothes! They look like some de-

pressed muner's family." But she is pleased with the faithful script, the directing by Sir Peter Hall and the acting, particularly by Peter Hall's nine-year-old daughter, Rebecca, who plays the child Sophie. She is clearly a child to watch. "A natural actress. Never fluffs her lines, and when her father said, 'Cry now darling', the tears would come."

She has to confess to being rather shocked by seeing sex on screen, even when written by herself. People always mention the sex in her books (although it is obliquely dealt with) "because I'm so old and they think I must have forgotten... Seeing it on screen is quite different."

The three children's books she wrote before she was 70 are now reissued. She remembers, "When I sold my first children's book, my accountant was appalled. 'My God! You'll lose your rebate. I'd always had a tax rebate of £100 a year.' Now she enjoys doing money out to those who deserve it. She has sold 1.5 million of her books in paperback. Whenever she appears in a bookshop to sign copies, she is all but mobbed.

Naturally her publishers want to exploit all this while they can, as she frankly concedes they should. "It's interesting to be so near death," she says. "I'm very lucky to have my own hair and teeth, and not to be deaf or crippled with arthritis. Most of my friends are young, 35 to 50, and I'm very happy living self-indulgently alone. As a child I could always amuse myself. I would invent groups of people in my head: so I always had a novel going on, and now I'm reverting to childhood really."

"I would love all this to have happened when my husband was alive. He would have been tremendously pleased. He wept for joy when I had my first book accepted. But one can't tell, if I had somebody constantly in the house, could I work as I do now? Writing is a solace. It routs the daily accidie. It's everything."

So she goes on, writing about the life she knows, as Jane Austen did, and Trollope. Which reminds her: how could John Major say Trollope's Lily Dale was his favourite literary heroine? "The most irritating girl ever written about. A maddening, simpering girl. Almost as irritating as Tess of the D'Urbervilles, who was so silly."

The rising of the clans

As Scotland's political mood appears to move towards independence, Kate Muir travels to Glasgow and discovers an upsurge of cultural nationalism

Ten years ago the ceilidh was an embarrassment to anyone under middle age. To young urban Scots it reeked of big hairy lurchy jumpers and people who had beards instead of senses of humour. Kenneth McKellar, Andy Stewart and assorted teachers (Highlanders) who knew no better dabbled in such things. Self-respecting youth did not.

Self-respecting youth also stayed firmly in its trousers, wary of that English invention and perversion of tartan, the kilt. Thus it was most disturbing arriving in Glasgow and being told that to retain any semblance of hipness, attendance was compulsory at both a ceilidh, and a bar where the staff wore tartan.

There was not just one ceilidh. There was an outbreak of four — including one on the decommissioned Renfrew ferry moored in the Clyde, and another in Edinburgh. Chairs still hot from rappers seated accordianists and fiddlers of a certain age, who still thought E was a musical note.

At midnight in the Riverside Club, the floor was so packed the clubbers had to divide themselves in two groups to take turns at the

Gay Gordons and the Reel of the 51st. The room smelled as rancid as the school gym after Scottish country dancing, but there was none of the delicate skipping and toe-pointing of those days. These were Scottish reels at their most brutish, conducted in big boots and jeans. The kilt count was two out of two hundred.

'Now people are wearing tartan Armani jackets when they go to the ceilidhs'

Meanwhile down in the Uisge Beatha, a new bar in Glasgow's west end, all the male staff wore the kilt in a rough and ready way with sloganed T-shirts and Doc Martens. This display of hairy knees, with a backdrop of walls groaning with stags' heads and oil portraits of various lairds, was not intended to attract tourists but the local community of students and intellectuals.

Strangely, it had succeeded.

So why would Scots in their twenties and early thirties, after years of leaving tartan kitschery to American tourists, suddenly take it to their hearts, albeit with some irony? Alistair McCallum, aged 33, an artist and designer from Glasgow, thinks it comes from a need for an identity. "In the 1980s, when the gulf between Scotland and England grew, especially in voting intentions, people asked themselves what it was to be Scottish. With industrial and social changes, we were no longer about cloth caps and blue boiler suits, so we had to find something else."

Rather than the Thatcher's children of England, young Scots were more Thatcher's orphans, ruled by what they considered a minority party in their country. In the late eighties, there were just nine Conservative and Unionist MPs out of 72 Scottish members. Abandoned, "we were forced to turn in on ourselves," says McCallum. "The lustre which was once London had worn away, and people like me who might have been drawn to it in the past stayed here, and out of that came theatre, literature, artists and bands that had not existed before."

But that does not entirely explain the outburst of tartan. Mr. McCallum merely considers it the surface of the revived culture. "It's great, all these ceilidhs springing up, because most of us used to think Scottish dancing was torture. At school, you used to have to get your mammy to write a note about your veruccas to escape it. It was a rural thing for old folk. But it's lost its hame-knitted aspect — people are wearing tartan Armani jackets to the ceilidhs."

The designer ceilidh business is part of a wider movement which peaked last month when 50 per cent of Scots said they supported independence. Compared with previous Scottish pleas for some degree of autonomy, the latest poll is being taken more seriously, because it has an underpinning of nationalism with a small 'n'. In the build-up to the 1979 referendum on devolution, little cultural efflorescence seemed to accompany the political activity. Then there were no established Scottish authors like Alasdair Gray and James Kelman, no festivals in Glasgow, and no artists like Ken Currie and Stephen Campbell, who are now internationally acclaimed.

But the failure of the devolution referendum and the growth of southern conservatism were cathartic, according to Cairns Craig, a lecturer in English literature at Edinburgh University. "Instead of political defeat leading to quiescence, it led directly into



Sounds of Scotland: fiddlers in Uisge Beatha, a Glasgow bar, where all the male staff wear the kilt and the walls groan with stags' heads

an explosion of cultural creativity... redefining the nation's concept of itself." Plenty of young Scots agree. Donald Shaw, the 24-year-old, keyboards player from Capercaillie, a semi-Gaelic band which has made the Radio 1 playlist, feels his generation has been alienated from the British mainstream. "Instead we've immersed ourselves in the ordinary things that affect us most, like football and music. People who ignore the manifestos of political parties still see the hard economic facts: they feel different. It's close to their hearts."

That young people are so aware of their culture and politics is surprising. Such ideas tend to be less formed in the average English pop star of the same age. Yet almost all Scottish popular music has political roots. Pat Kane, of Hue and Cry, appears in the Scottish National Party's election broadcasts. The Pro-

claimers and Deacon Blue have played at anti-poll tax benefits. The lyrics of Runrig are far from anodyne. As for Capercaillie, Oban High School's most famous products turn the Gaelic songs of their grandparents into successful Euro-pop. Their single *Waiting for the Wheel to Turn* is about "the second clearances, where affluent people from the south come to the west coast to retire or buy holiday homes, and send the prices right out of the locals' range. The song isn't anti-English — tourists are fine, but meddlers," says Mr. Shaw darkly, "are different."

The less polemical want to be nationalists without being parochial. Janice Kirkpatrick, aged 29, of the Scottish design company Graven Images, took her whole office to Barcelona recently, and regularly exhibits at the New York design fair.

"Glasgow raised its inter-

national profile by bypassing London and making links with other second cities like Barcelona, Chicago and Hamburg. There's a bit of a renaissance here. We won't have to go back to the time when Charles Rennie Mackintosh had to leave the city to work, and died penniless."

Now the city's greatest artist is to have a huge exhibition of his work in 1996, which will then go on an international tour. But the feelings behind the resurgence in national identity are not based on labels from outside, like the European City of Culture 1990.

Indeed, writers like Alasdair Gray have attacked such a concept. In *Some-thing Leather*, published in 1990, he allows an English woman to condemn the Culture Capital idea with her over-enthusiasm. "Cutha and tourism is the same thing," says Linda, failing, like many of those south of

the border, to pronounce her 'rs. But much of Scotland's culture nowadays is intended for internal consumption. Take the *Future Memories* photographic exhibition organised by Alistair McCallum. It grew out of the Cranhill Arts Project in one of Glasgow's housing schemes. The project supplied camera equipment and lessons to 22 people who took 35,000 photographs of the city over ten years. "The exhibition was from an insider's point of view, yet it was good enough to be exhibited at the Tramway alongside the usual European avant-garde."

There is a confidence about Scotland which was missing ten years ago. The words on a poster for the tabloid *Daily Record* showed how far the situation has gone. "The Great Debate!" said the banner headline. "Independence or Devolution?" Unionism was not even on the agenda.

How much do we need our vehicles? One academic has discovered he is happier, and better off, without one

Why I have told my car to hit the road

A year ago, Professor Raj Bhopal gave up his car. That might seem a renunciation almost as drastic as becoming a beachcomber or entering a monastery. But he has no regrets. "The benefits far outweigh the drawbacks," he says. "It means capital in the bank, an estimated ongoing saving of £30 a week, a reduction in stress — and I have never been so punctual at meetings in my life."

His colleagues in the department of epidemiology and public health at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne may appreciate his improved timekeeping, but view his escape from the traffic-jam culture with incredulity, mixed with envy.

"Some of them say that they support me in principle, but I haven't noticed any of them taking the same step," Professor Bhopal says. "Many people would like to do what I did, but are afraid of the consequences. I am lucky to have the kind of work where it is possible."

He is quick to dismiss any thought that he and his family have totally rejected wheelpower. "I have only

given up our second car — the one I used to go to work in. With young children of six, four and two, we have a lot of ferrying around to do at the moment. My wife is working part time in a place which is relatively inaccessible by public transport. I can't envisage getting rid of our first car."

The car has wound itself so insidiously into affluent lifestyles that even such a modest reputation as Bhopal's has an air of daring. Between 1960 and 1990 the number of cars on the road almost quadrupled. The number of households with more than one car rose from one in 50 to one in five. Public transport carries less than 10 per cent of all passenger traffic. The car is five times as dangerous to ride in as a bus or a train, and its environmental impact can be deplorable. But the freedom it offers makes it almost irresistible.

Professor Bhopal would have found it harder to divest himself of a car if he had not lived within walking distance of the Tyne and Wear Metro. It carries him the ten miles into central Newcastle in 20 minutes — minutes he counts as time gained.



The wheel thing: Professor Raj Bhopal on his bicycle

"If I lived further from the Metro, I could cycle to the station, or even drive and leave the car there," he says. "I am a keen cyclist."

He may be wise to cycle in the suburbs, rather than in the city centre. Newcastle is one of the least cycle-friendly cities in Britain, according to a survey by *New Cycling Magazine*. Newcastle Gateshead was one of the bottom ten out of 150 councils assessed in the survey for their readiness to take account of the needs of cyclists, by mea-

sures such as providing cycle lanes, filling potholes and introducing traffic calming schemes to discourage speeding by other road users.

The loss of a car — even a second one — can be achieved with relatively little loss by Professor Bhopal, beyond the sacrifice of a public marker of his social status. ("I have, of course, moved down the social ladder by stepping down to one car," he says, half seriously.) "The car is a wonderful invention, one of the great

feats of civilisation. But we must not get overawed by it. In a society where so many can afford a car, why can everyone not have access to a public transport system of high quality, too? We cannot afford both, and we do not need both."

More attention should be given in town planning to the needs of cyclists and pedestrians. It is economic issues that drive people's behaviour. At the moment it is usually cheaper when travelling to use a car, if you have it, than to go by train. It might be politically difficult for a government to make motoring relatively more expensive, but making public transport relatively cheaper, even by subsidies, would be a popular move.

As a specialist in public health, Professor Bhopal has at his fingertips the evidence about the damage that cars do to the environment and the health of those who live among them. But he might never have taken the decision to sell his own car if a family tragedy had not forced him to look at the general issues with an eye sharpened by personal suffering. His brother, a

Glasgow businessman, died at the age of 43 in a collision between his car and a lorry.

"Thoughts of this kind were in my mind long before he died," the professor says. "But that brought it into focus. The carnage became real. Every year 5,000 people die on the roads, and 100,000 are injured. There are statistics to show that every life prematurely lost costs the nation £500,000 or more. But I don't think that calculation is as significant as the fact of pain and loss."

GEORGE HILL

TOMORROW

"A kid of 14 watching hardcore stuff today, what's he going to be like in the future?" Parents page: Jay Andrews on computer pornography

"I still have a play written in the manner of Japanese Noh theatre about a hermit. Strange that many years later I should be that hermit in those same Lebanese hills."

In this Friday's TES former hostage Brian Keenan recalls the writers who influenced him as a teacher and sustained him during his travels.

TES

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DENZIL McNEELANCE

So you want to be Carmen?

Fancy a rummage through 150 rails of Royal Opera House costumes, where you can buy items for a fiver? Brenda Polan reports

Those earnest guides to female elegance, the ones which worried themselves about how many strings of pearls an unmarried girl could decently wear, used to love to put vanity in its place by insisting that if someone noticed what you were wearing, you were not dressed appropriately.

It is a little like that in the theatre. If the audience pauses to applaud the costumes, then they are not properly engaged by the production.

That, at least, is the modest view put forward by Janice Pullen, the wardrobe director at the Royal Opera House, although she does add: "It is nice that in both *Mitridate* and *Boca Negra*, two operas which differ vastly in style, the costumes were singled out and praised by the critics for their contribution to the whole."

But she now has 150 rails of redundant costumes to be rid of as profitably as possible so that there will be hanging space for more recent ones. So, for the first time in more than a decade, the Royal Opera House is holding a sale of its costumes.

For those ten years the company has been squirreling away its money in an icy warren of dark rooms in what was once a cinema in Limehouse, east London.

There, glittering Tudor gowns from the silver and gold production of *Anna Bolena* rub extravagant shoulders with macho black leather doublets from *The Tempest*, and the chiffon draperies from *The Firebird* hang alongside the more robust embroidered peasant gear from *Tannhäuser* or *Fledermaus*.

The sale will not be staid and orderly, says Derek Turner, the custodian of this magic hoard. This will be a get-in-there-and-rummage affair, with prices starting at a fiver and few going over £100. Victims of sales fever will be given an empty dress-rail to fill, and will make their final choice from it.

In all, 1,500 costumes have to go as well as hundreds of pairs of shoes and mounds of hats and head-dresses.

"We can only recycle so much,"



Very Wagner: pink Sixties mini-dress from *Götterdämmerung* at £30 (left) with black leather jacket (£60) and trousers (£25) from *The Tempest*

Ms Pullen says. "Classical draperies, chain mail, cloaks and shawls and all-purpose noble robes will always come in useful, but some things are just too distinctive or too limited as to period."

"We tend to remove feathers and jewels for re-use but, however economical you want to be, you cannot force designers to use dead stock or to adapt their designs to

use up your spare trimmings. "We do pirate some things. A crinoline base is a crinoline base. A petticoat is a petticoat."

"And we do cheat a little. The men of the opera chorus have one tail suit each and they wear it for *Traviata*, *Rigoletto*, *Fledermaus* and *Arabella* which span some 50 years. What they have is a historically accurate shirt, tie and

waistcoat for each opera. The audience focuses on that and no one pays much attention to the width of a trouser leg."

Some of the prettiest ball-gowns from productions such as *La traviata* will not be in the sale, which lasts two days next weekend.

"In some cases the performers buy their costumes at the end of a production run, particularly if they do a lot of concert work."

"Nor will you find a dress with Joan Sutherland's name in it, or Kiri Te Kanawa's. We keep the costumes worn by the stars for our archive. They have a historical significance."

All the costumes for *Costi*, *Figaro*, *Trovatore* and *Carmen*, 300 rails in all, were sold outright to the New York City Opera and Billy Budd went to the San Francisco Opera. In addition, many small opera, ballet and amateur dramatic companies have had a pick through, but the racks are still jammed and the piled boxes threaten to topple.

Among the finery, most of which is from opera, is much that sparkles and glitters and will serve well as exotic evening-wear. Velvet doublets make dashing jackets over leggings or a short kilt and, for the bold, a nymph's flesh-coloured body-stocking with layers of diaphanous material achieves much the same effect as a party dress by the fashion designer Romeo Gigli.

"Young men like the battered suedes and the uniform jackets," says Ms Pullen. "They look very good worn with jeans and voluminous velvet lawyer's robes are terrific over leggings."

She is not interested in fashion; she loves clothes only as an essential ingredient of the magical thing that happens on a stage when the music, the voices, the bodies and the sets all join to create a great illusion. But she likes the idea of her costumes finding love after cold storage.

The sale will be held at the London Opera Centre, on the corner of Commercial Road and Pinner Street, London E1, between 10am and 4pm on Saturday, February 22 and Sunday, February 23.

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A bargain on a platter: multi-coloured appliqué tunic from Richard Strauss's *Salome*, for sale at £40

Love them or hate them, a herd of MPTs is probably stampeding your way

Rounding up his little pony

They swish through fashionable café-bars, they dip into your popcorn in air-house cinemas, what refuge is there from the male ponytail (MPT)?

Lustrous black ones, old silver ones, wiry ginger ones and stubby pretenders... there appear to be more dangling from men's heads than ever. But there is a crisis in the world of the MPT. What was once a definite look has lost its significance in a state of sub-division and natural misappropriation.

These days the wearer is more likely to be an accountant or a milkman than a rock 'n' roll star.

While ponytails on men acquired their outlaw chic from Hell's Angels, American motorcyclists unrestricted by either crash helmets or social approval, it was men such as Marlon Brando who made ordinary folk want to have a go. Then the ponytail took off in the 1980s as a fashion.

Paul King, now the presenter of the *120 Minutes* programme on MTV, was known for his pony when he fronted the pop group King in the early 1980s.

"The good thing about long hair is that you can have more than one look, and tying it back is one of them," he says. "At one stage I had two ponytails going on there, which I was very proud of. And it's the convenience — when you're on stage jumping about and it gets all sweaty and goes in your mouth you have to tie it back in the end."

"What actually happened in the 1980s was long hair became a designer thing — and it had the hangover of the hippy thing. You had your successful, creative people adopting it, artists who admitted they were businessmen, too, like Steve Wooley (of Palace Pictures) and all the Soho types. It gives off the impression of hippiedom, and also that you're comfortable with your feminine side."

"But now it's all got confused by people in the City, for God's sake, wearing them. The ponytail and the suit on the Stock Exchange! So I got rid of mine."

"I cut it down from six inches down my back to collar-length (although I was

still capable of a little sprout) and now I've got basically a complete skinhead look, a suedehead circa 1972."

According to even trendier sources, however, the backlash began earlier than that. Richard Statney, a stylist at 4th floor, a London hairdressers so groovy it never advertises and which operates in an unmarked former factory off Gray's Inn Road, London WC1,



considers them very passé.

"I suppose seven or eight years ago, in the days of Scott Crolla, men who are interested in fashion started growing their hair. Long hair still looks OK on a good looking man, but that greased back Wall Street look is dead."

"Someone like Viscount Weymouth who's in his 50s, looks great with one, since he dresses slightly dandyish anyway."

Although it takes three years to grow, the pony tail is an easy fashion to adopt. And because any old Tom, Dick or Harry can do it, it has lost its meaning. Hence the old excuse of convenience. Daniel Henderson, 21, works in Pickfords Travel Agents. "Well, you can't drive or really work with it let down, and flowing long hair tends to attract people who think you're into heavy metal, so I

generally tie it back in public. It's just a haircut, after all. A girl at work sneaked up and cut six inches off the back of it once. I was pretty mad for a day."

Recent history may be on the side of the woman with the shears, but some women really go for them. "Nowadays you get a lot of the little boys from Essex with their bunsches, going to their stupid raves, but nothing beats a long, clean, thick, shiny, well-kept pony tail on a man," says Pandora White, aged 30, who works in public relations. "I think old balding men who have them because they can only grow it at the back are disgusting. You used to know the guy would be in a band, but now it's harder. The best thing is when they're home in the evening, and they shake it loose and let it cascade down their shoulders... that's sexy."

So there is a split between those who wear long hair tied back for convenience, and those (mostly the old guard) who love their tail for the mysterious mixture of biker and androgynous imagery; between those who have gone off them but can't bring themselves to chop them off, and the arrivistes; and between men and women's perceptions of just how attractive they are.

You can of course go into the metaphysical background of long hair, like artist John Allan, 30, who has red hair down to his waist. "I think hair is like a radar system that emits and picks up very subtle vibrations," he says. "I'm interested in the way that I pick up the world in it." Mr Allan believes that the old prejudices against long hair have not gone away. "I wanted a career in the corridors of power, in high finance or in the military, but the only thing that stopped me was the minions at the door, telling me I didn't fit in, that I had to cut it."

"People presume a Hell's Angel connection and assume you're poor, you cause trouble, you take drugs. I've had to sacrifice an awful lot in terms of jobs, social connections, and certainly relationships with women."

JOSEPH GALLIVAN

Confessions of a born-again blonde

How a brunette and would-be missionary became a journalist and a blonde



Then: the natural look



Now: a born-again blonde

When I was 12 my ambitions were to be blonde and 5ft 9in tall and to be interviewed in a swimsuit. I eventually achieved one of these ambitions: to be a blonde.

At the age of 12 I had already abandoned my previous thought of being a missionary, having discovered women could not become priests. I also wanted to be a journalist. A quick investigation into the few women then surviving in Fleet Street did not seem to rule out being blonde.

Growing up in the countryside in the Seventies, with our main cultural input from horses, cows, the local hunt and the ubiquitous television screen, my girlfriends and I sought out feminist ideals as a way of escaping the monotony of rural life.

While the mostly-male teachers suggested we aim to work in a bank or perhaps become secretaries, the well-meaning women in our lives offered Germaine Greer as the kind of woman we might want to be. Undaunted, we searched around for a more glamorous feminine image of success.

A brave few threw themselves into the emerging punk scene, turning up at parties in black bin-liners and silver foil and with safety pins for earrings. The rest of us talked of London, streets of gold and the women we wanted most to emulate: these were invariably statuesque, stunning and successful and were exemplified, depressing though it feels to admit this today, by Miss World.

For me, the problems with this were manifold. Some were insuperable. I could do nothing about my height, which remained obstinately stuck at 5ft 5½in, despite

prayers every night to God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit to make my legs a few inches longer, like those of my best friend, Lizzie.

I took up bellringing. My motives for this were mostly good, but I must confess to a sneaking hope that it would stretch me out a little.

Disappointed in this and other unanswered prayers, I abandoned church and found another religion, dieting. My height might be unalterable, but I could and would do something about my weight.

As any regular dieter will tell you, dieting only makes a person put on weight. But this habit introduced me to women's magazines, and I began to learn about hair.

To the monthly surprise of my friends and relatives, who would often fail to recognise me, my hair began to fluctuate in equal measure to my weight. Every six months or so it was permed, curled, cut, turned red, blonde, brown. One day it all began to fall out, but then it grew back and I started again.

Finally, it occurred to me to stop being obsessed about the outside and go to work on the inside. In spite of adolescent rebellion, I had never lost a sense of vocation. I returned to church, and began to pray for God's will, not my own. My life improved and I let my hair grow out to its natural colour.

So it was with a sense of shock that I realised one undeniable fact about myself. I do not like my natural hair colour.

I like the way God made me. I like the way He made the world, but perhaps He is just too busy up there for the niceties of life, because I still

have this feeling that He made a mistake with the hair. It was this conviction that compelled me recently to become a born-again blonde. Little in my life has changed since this latest transformation. The sexual harassment to which any woman in the city is subject has, if anything, decreased. The men on building sites use colourful variations on the same old vocabulary, but as a blonde I am for some reason less inclined to swear at them. In the eyes of some trousered specimens of the human race, I detect a new respect and, dare I say it, fear.

In this post-feminist era, when men have retreated into silence rather than say the wrong thing, I am taken into quiet corners by sweet and shy men who confess they think I "looks nice". Colleagues have suggested that it is odd for a serious newspaper journalist, especially the *Religion* Correspondent of *The Times*, to dye her hair. "How odd of God to make it odd," I say.

My main reason, though, for this latest sally into blondness is that my husband is a gentleman, and the tastes of gentlemen are well known.

RUTH GLEDHILL

ROWAN YARNS

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Made in Britain? Don't be silly

As a new superconductor facility opens
Nigel Hawkes reports on fears that
Britain is losing a lead it once had

Five years after the discovery of high-temperature superconductors, a technology that could revolutionise much of life, Britain is about to open a purpose-built laboratory to study them.

The centre at Cambridge has been a long time coming, although research has been going on in corners of existing laboratories while the scientists waited. But the feeling is growing that Britain is about to miss out again. When the first big products reach the market, they are unlikely to be stamped Made in Britain.

For years, superconductivity was a laboratory curiosity. Kamerlingh Onnes, the Dutch physicist, discovered in 1911 that if he cooled a metal conductor sufficiently, its resistance to the flow of electricity disappeared. The trouble was that the temperatures involved were only a few degrees above absolute zero; there seemed no way of making use of the phenomenon.

In the 1960s, the first powerful magnets based on superconductors were developed. They are used in the magnetic resonance imaging machines in hospitals, and in the magnets of particle accelerators.

Next came the exciting development, in 1987, of a new class of superconductors, made of ceramics not metals, operating at far higher temperatures. Within months, the temperature had been raised to -179°C, a world away from the -250°C of early superconductors.

The difference meant the new "high temperature" superconductors could be cooled by liquid nitrogen, rather than by the costlier liquid helium. A magnetic imaging machine, using old superconductors, may cost \$100,000 worth of helium and insulation, and refrigeration costs are at least \$50,000 a year. At liquid nitrogen temperatures, the magnets would cost a tenth as much to cool and operate. The way was opened for a whole range of superconducting devices, from ultra-fast electronic circuits to trains suspended above tracks by magnetic fields.

Electrical machines based on

superconductors would operate without losses, and the transmission of electricity might also be revolutionised. Five years later, how near are these dreams to realisation, and how well has Britain responded?

A report published last year by the National Committee for Superconductivity (NCS) said British academic work in the field was good, but insufficient. As for industry, the report concluded that "the companies that have shown any interest at all in superconducting technology are worryingly small".

While Japanese and American industry is heavily committed, British firms are marching boldly in the opposite direction. Lucas, Thorn-EMI, Plessey and STC all signed up to join research projects partly funded by the trade and industry department, but pulled out before they were completed. The department allocated £8 million for the programme but, to devise ways of spending it, the programme had to be extended to five years.

Much more is being spent elsewhere. The NCS report estimated US spending at \$300 million a year, Japanese at \$200 million, German \$70 million and Britain £20 million or 25 million. Spending in the US and Japan has since continued to rise rapidly.

The irony is that when superconductivity was an unfashionable subject, Britain did rather well. Almost half of all first-generation superconducting products worldwide were British. But these were specially produced; the next generation should tap into the mass market, where big rewards lie.

Yao Liang, director of the Cambridge centre which is being opened tomorrow, blames the recession for British industry's reluctance to plunge in. "Superconductivity has enormous potential, but it will take ten to 15 years for a big market to appear," he says. "British companies have a short outlook; they tend not to invest until they think it is safe."

The centre, supported by the Science and Engineering Re-



Yao Liang, the director of the Cambridge centre, with a superconducting wire, in the purpose-built laboratory

search Council, the Universities Funding Council and built on land at the Cavendish Laboratory provided by the university, brings together scientists from a variety of disciplines.

Research began in 1988, long before the building was complete, and already the centre has achieved successes, including the world's highest-temperature superconductor, which operates at -145°C.

Dr Liang says that the research will be split half and half between fundamental research, at which British universities have always shone, and applied work, which includes devising ways of fabricating useful devices from the new superconducting materials.

"We need fundamental understanding but we also need to do applied research to keep us in touch with reality," Dr Liang says.

"There are two central questions: how do the superconducting materials work, and how can we turn them into kilometre-long lengths of wire useful for indus-

try, or thin films needed in microelectronics?"

The centre has established good links with industry, but Dr Liang is critical of the reluctance of many companies to get seriously involved. He says: "Nothing is further from the mind of British Rail than to study magnetically levitated trains."

"British Telecom takes an interest in the subject but says that as a service industry it is justified in not investing."

In fact, the first products containing high-temperature superconductors are starting to appear. Birmingham university has developed a highly efficient aerial for microwave frequencies, and similar aerials are soon to be flown on an American satellite.

Devices for detecting very small magnetic fields, called Squids, have also been successfully fabricated from thin layers of high-temperature superconductors. These can be used for studying the brain by detecting

the minute magnetic fields produced by electrical currents.

The more revolutionary applications still lie ahead. John Marriage, a materials technologist, of PA Consulting Group, who worked on the first large superconducting motor, built by IRD in Newcastle, says that all established engineering techniques need a very hard push to displace them.

He says: "It's all very well talking of superconducting cables running across the country, but reliability is the key. Such a network would have to work perfectly all the time. And though it is easier to cool to liquid nitrogen temperature than liquid helium, the difference is not dramatic enough to displace the established techniques yet."

That still seems far away. Since the excitement of 1987, transition temperatures have increased hardly at all.

Dr Liang says: "By working carefully, we can raise the transition temperatures of the present type of devices by 20 to 30°C, but

that won't help very much. As for a room-temperature superconductor, we can hope for it but we cannot put a timetable on it."

The NCS report complained that, with two exceptions (Oxford Instruments and GEC), British industry was only marginally involved with projects to produce superconducting generators, energy storage machines, transformers and microelectronic devices which are going on in the United States, Japan, Germany and France.

Some industrialists share Dr Liang's "disquiet" at British industry's reluctance to jump in. Sir Martin Wood, the NCS chairman, in his introduction to the report, wrote: "We are at the stage at which the UK has sometimes filtered in other fields of endeavour, leaving the big prizes to be won overseas."

"The challenge is clear. If we do not take it up we shall have only ourselves to blame."

That was more than a year ago; but there is no sign that anybody took his words to heart.

UPDATE

People in glass...

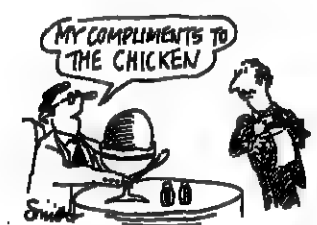
A PANEL of scientists is to review the Biosphere 2 project, accused of cheating on its goal of creating a self-contained world in an Arizona glasshouse. The panel will examine charges of fraud made by a former employee of Space Biospheres Ventures who claims computer programs were designed so data could be altered.

Space silence

JAPAN'S first environmental satellite, JERS-1, developed a problem only hours after last Tuesday's launch. The instruction was sent to open its antenna, but no acknowledgement was received. The satellite is to observe weather patterns for two years.

Dirty as snow

ELLESMEIRE Island in the Arctic is littered with rubbish, much of it from scientific expeditions that went to study its pristine beauty. In a 750-mile crossing of the island, a Canadian expedition counted 61 empty petrol drums, 41 rusting food cans, 14 vehicle parts, seven food crates, six recent news magazines, five bin bags (empty), as well as letters 3m across spelling a sexual slang word intended to guide a helicopter to its landing spot. In *Nature*, Dr Robert France, of McGill University, reports finding one piece of debris every two and a half miles, despite the island, though as big as Britain, having only 100 permanent residents.



Late extra

A BARRAGE of ridicule has forced Trenton, New Jersey, to lift a ban on undercooked eggs in restaurants because of salmonella poisoning fears. The town had ruled against the use of raw eggs in sauces, salads and other foods. The new regulations allow restaurants to prepare and serve raw or undercooked egg dishes.

LA CRÈME DE LA CRÈME

Professional secretaries take note!

swissair THE TIMES Holiday Inn

EUROPEAN PROFESSIONAL SECRETARY OF THE YEAR AWARDS 1992

The search is on for the UK's top secretaries and PAs with practical language skills, with a working knowledge of The Single Market and an understanding of the business and social cultural differences between EC countries.

Organised by Blenheim Exhibitions to run in conjunction with The London Secretary & Office Management Show (Barbican 24-26 March 1992), this award scheme is sponsored by The Times with the European Association of Professional Secretaries (EAPS) and The Industrial Society.

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For your official entry form phone Blenheim PEL on 081-742 2828, or write to Times Competition, Blenheim PEL, 630 Chiswick High Road, London W4 5BG. Closing date: 6 March 1992. Finalists will attend an interview in London Wed 18 March. Prizes will be presented on Tues 24 March at The London Secretary & Office Management Show.

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BBC 1

- 6.00 **Cee-fax** (75098)
6.30 **Breakfast News** begins with *Business Breakfast* until 6.55 when Nicholas Witchell and Jill Dando present news and topical reports with regular business, sport, weather, regional news and travel bulletins (49885888)
- 9.05 **Kilroy**. Robert Kilroy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (4010030) 9.50 **Hot Chefs**. Ken Hom prepares vegetarian fried rice (5018914)
- 10.00 **News**, regional news and weather (6875727) 10.05 **Playdays**. For the very young (1) (5565949) 10.25 **Pingu**. Animated adventures of a clumsy penguin (1) (6878814) 10.35 **No Kidding**. Quiz game show for families, hosted by Mike Smith with Kate Copstick (s) (5349185)
- 11.00 **News**, regional news and weather (7944820) 11.05 **Rosemary Conley**. Includes a summary of how the pilot group have fared during the first 28 days of their diet. Plus low fat food during pregnancy (7242659) 11.20 **People Today** presented by Miffie Stoppard and Adrian Mills. With Philip Hodson counselling on emotional problems (3828456)
- 12.20 **Pebble Mill**. Music and chat introduced by Judi Spliers (s) (3827920) 12.55 **Regional News and Weather** (90924582)
- 1.00 **One O'Clock News** and weather (21104) 1.30 **Neighbours**. (Cee-fax) (s) (6004833)
- 1.50 **Olympics '92** introduced by Helen Pollason. Action from Mexico with the women's super-giant slalom. Plus the Nordic combined team event and the women's 4 x 5 km cross-country relay (3180165)
- 3.50 **Barney**. Animated series (r) (899543) 3.55 **Radio Roo**. Episode nine of the 13-part comedy drama, written by Wayne Jackman (s) (702036) 4.10 **Jackanory**. William Rushton with *Hump and Duke*, the first of five stories by Anthony Duke (s) (2257562) 4.25 **Fantastic Max**. Adventures of a bionic baby (1) (5998611) 4.35 **Teletubbies**. Musical story (Cee-fax) (225746)
- 5.00 **Newsround** with Juliet Morris and Krishna Guru-Murthy (3605272) 5.05 **Blue Peter**. Young people's magazine (Cee-fax) (s) (5310036) 5.35 **Neighbours**. (1) (713833) 5.55 **Inside the House** (Cee-fax) (s) (713833) 6.00 **Open University** with Peter Sissons and Moira Stuart. (Cee-fax) (Cee-fax) (s) (713833) 6.30 **Regional News Magazine** (748) Northern Ireland: Neighbours



Stand-in for Wogan: Gloria Hunniford calls the chat (7.00pm)

- 7.00 **Wogan** with Gloria Hunniford. Among tonight's guests are Hollywood actor Nick Nolte and Jason Gould, son of Barbara Streisand and Elliott Gould. Music is provided by Seal (8614)
- 7.30 **Watchdog**. Consumer affairs series presented by Lynn Faulds Wood and John Stapleton (53)
- 8.00 **May To December**. Underminding age-gap comedy romance starring Anton Rodgers and Lesley Dunlop. Last in the repeat run. A new series begins next month (5582)
- 8.30 **Wildlife On One**. Barrele of Crude and Wallaroos. From Barrow Island, off the tip of north-west Australia, a pleasing story of how engineers have managed to drill for oil without disturbing the island's collection of native animals. Narrated by David Attenborough. (Cee-fax) (s) (4366)
- 9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** with Martyn Lewis. (Cee-fax) Regional news and weather (3882)
- 9.30 **Panorama**. David Dimbleby chairs a debate from Edinburgh on the future of Scotland's government. Among those taking part are Ian Lang, the Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar, Labour's Scottish spokesman, Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party, and Malcolm Bruce of the Liberal Democrats (200104)
- 10.10 **Olympics '92** presented by Desmond Lynam. The climax of the ice dancing competition from Albertville (8452272)
- 11.40 **Adrian Slingsby**. A look at the violating procedures for the children of prisoners (1) (522522)
- 12.00 **Weather** (795954). Ends at 12.05am
- 2.00 **The Way Ahead**. John Murray explains the new benefits for the disabled that come into effect in April (387587). Ends at 2.15

BBC 2

- 6.45 **Open University**. Harried Bath (8280096). Ends at 7.10
- 8.00 **Breakfast News** (2307017)
- 8.15 **Westminster** (2380340)
- 8.30 **Antiques at Home**. Michael Newman visits Maidenhead, the Spanish hacienda-style home of explorer Robin Hanbury-Tenison, on Bodmin Moor (1) (57307)
- 9.00 **Daytime on 2**. Educational programmes
- 9.20 **News and weather** (1035063) followed by *Storytime* (1) (74902746) 2.15 **Bitten by the Bug**. Professor Erik Holt continues his series on the insect world with a look at how some species rely on brains rather than brawn when trying to outwit their enemies (7492882). Wales (to 3.00) Wales in Westminster 2.30 **The Stonemasons of Bath**. The skill of the craftsman who contributed to the beauty of Bath (1) (307)
- 3.00 **News and weather** (746185) followed by *Scenes of Prison* from Bath Abbey (1). (Cee-fax) (s) (5539712) 3.45 **I Could Do That**. A look at the thriving construction business of Ronald and Stephen Spence (7255360) 3.55 **News**, regional news and weather (7521814)
- 4.00 **Catchword**. Game show for wordaholics, presented by Paul Cole (563)
- 4.30 **Wild World: On the Edge of Paradise**. The ecological problems of the West Indies (1) (6107253) 5.20 **Growing Pains**. Geoffrey Smith joins Joe Maiden at Golden Acres Park in Leeds (1) (5607580)
- 5.30 **A Question of Sport** introduced by Captain Coleman. Billie Jean King is joined by a new opposing team captain, footballer John Barnes (1) (Cee-fax) (s) (123)
- 6.00 **Olympics Today**. Highlights of day ten, presented by Desmond Lynam (11838765)
- 7.40 **Voices from the Past** (b/w). Early sound film footage of a 1933 Arctic rescue in which the survivors of a Russian research ship were airlifted back to Moscow after being trapped in the ice for 60 years (1) (51423)
- 8.10 **Horizon**. The Black Sun. A documentary about the opportunity afforded scientists in Hawaii to study the corona of the sun's atmosphere as it was eclipsed by the moon in July 1991. (Cee-fax) (s) (89038)
- 9.00 **KYTV**. Satirical comedy set in the offices of a satellite television station. Starring Helen Atkinson Wood and Angus Deyton (1) (1524)



Torn from the headlines: prisoners on the rooftop (9.30pm)

- 9.30 **Underbelly**
9.30 **Underbelly**. Promising an expose of politics, big business and the prison system, *Underbelly* presents its first episode (four) juggling these three strands and hinting at how they will ultimately be meshed. The business story centres on David Hayman as a millionaire property speculator facing corruption charges and hurriedly transferring the company to his glamorous blonde wife. The prison story begins with an authentically staged rooftop protest. Tom Wilkinson plays a character linking the two. As a Home Office minister he catches the political flak from the prison riot. As a personal friend of the about to be disgraced millionaire he risks flak by association. Written by Peter Ramsey from a novel by Frank Kipper, *Underbelly* is not much concerned with authentic character or crime and it could do with more pace. But at least its material is torn from the headlines. (Cee-fax) (s) (62017)
- 10.30 **Newsnight** with Jeremy Paxman (250494)
- 11.15 **The Late Show**. Includes a performance by the Chomondleys (s) (31811) 11.55 **Weather** (227415)
- 12.00 **Open University**. Patterns in the Dust (81012). Ends at 12.30am
- VideoPlus+** and the Video PlusCodes
The numbers now appearing next to video programme titles are Video PlusCodes. These numbers, which refer to a video programme, are used with a VideoPlus+ handset. VideoPlus+ can be used with most videos. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. For more details call VideoPlus on 0800 12104 (calls charged at 48p per minute peak, 24p off-peak). VideoPlus, VTM Ltd, 77 Fulham Palace Road, London W6 8JA. VideoPlus+, VTM Ltd, 77 Fulham Palace Road, London W6 8JA. VideoPlus+, VTM Ltd, 77 Fulham Palace Road, London W6 8JA.

ITV

- 8.00 **TV-am** (801807)
- 8.25 **Keynotes**. Music quiz with cash prizes hosted by Alistair Dival (1130659) 8.55 **Thames News** (4175458)
- 10.00 **The Time ... The Place ...** John Stapleton chairs a discussion on a topical subject (3011415)
- 10.40 **This Morning**. Magazine series on family matters presented by Anna Scoury and Richard Bath. Includes an item on coping with the early stages of labour and a visit to a leading design house. With national and international news at 10.55 followed by regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather (382543)
- 12.10 **Realise and Jim**. Puppet series for children (258185)
- 12.30 **News and weather** (854543) 1.10 **Thames News** (53583748)
- 1.20 **Home and Away**. Australian drama series. (Cee-fax) (97409475)
- 1.50 **Country Practice**. Medical drama - serial set in the Australian outback (5281039)
- 2.20 **Thames Help**. The work of the hospice movement (7910807)
- 2.50 **Families**. Soap linking the north of England with Australia (480281)
- 3.15 **ITN News headlines** (8755552) 3.20 **Thames News headlines** (875475) 3.25 **The Young Doctors** (1) (86814)
- 3.55 **Joe's** (888082) 4.00 **T-Bag and the Seasons of Montezuma** (830753) 4.25 **Chop 'n' Dale** (830753)
- 4.50 **Liberty**. Musical. Timmy Mallett learns the secrets of a ringmaster's role (4262185)
- 5.10 **Blockbusters**. General knowledge quiz game for teenagers, presented by Bob Holmes (5304475)
- 5.40 **News with Carol Barnes**. (Cee-fax) (Cee-fax) (880814)
- 5.55 **Thames Help**. News of the hospice movement (1) (278253)
- 6.00 **Home and Away** (1) (592) 6.30 **Thames News** (Cee-fax) (814)
- 7.00 **Wish You Were Here ...** ? Jeffrey Archer tours Cambridge while multiple sclerosis suffers Anne Davies sees how the city caters for the wheelchair-bound visitor. John Carter travels on the Andalus Express, a sort of small, select hotel on rails, from Seville to Cordoba and Granada; and Judith Chalmers, in Cape Town, looks at how South Africa is preparing for the expected increase in tourists (482)
- 7.30 **Coronation Street**. (Cee-fax) (s) (759)

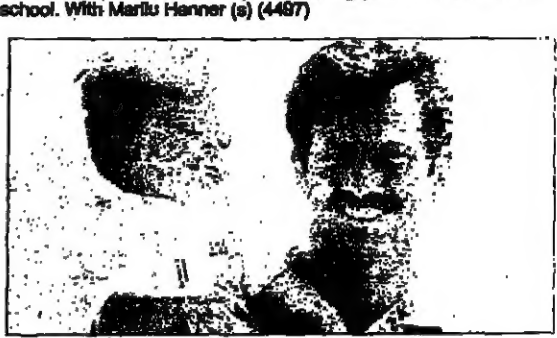


Comedy of silence: Rowan Atkinson as Mr Bean (8.00pm)

- 8.00 **Mr Bean Rides Again**
8.00 **Mr Bean Rides Again**. Rowan Atkinson returns with another of his periodic forays into near silent comedy, centred on the inoffensive little man who attracts trouble like a magnet. The *Mr Bean* series is a throwback to the days of flickering black and white cinema screens and twinkling light accompaniments, when comedians had to be visually inventive because they had no words to fall back on. Atkinson's opening routine of trying to revive a man who has fainted at a bus stop is a brilliant example of gag piled upon gag, each new one stemming logically though often surreally from the last. A slight reservation about the series is that *Mr Bean* can come across as not merely unhelpful or incontinent but deficient mentally. Any such criticism is happily absent tonight from a show that should offend no one and please many (s) (3630)
- 8.30 **World in Action**. An investigation into the pollution caused by Cornwall's Wheal Jane mine (2765)
- 9.00 **ET C.L.D.: Who Needs Enemies?** Costa del Sol comedy drama starring John Bird and Amanda Redman. (Cee-fax) (s) (7291)
- 10.00 **News at Ten** with Julia Somerville and Fiona Armstrong. (Cee-fax) (Cee-fax) (55578) 10.30 **Thames News** (897524)
- 10.40 **Film: Blind Alley** (1984) starring Anne Carline and Brad Rijn. Unusual thriller about a little boy who witnesses a professional killing. The man responsible then becomes involved with the boy's mother. Directed by Larry Cohen (229014) 10.40 **Film: The Ties That Bind** (1984) starring Anne Carline and Brad Rijn. Unusual thriller about a little boy who witnesses a professional killing. The man responsible then becomes involved with the boy's mother. Directed by Larry Cohen (229014)
- 12.30 **Sports Special**. Highlights of the Tynesians masters golf tournament (10012)
- 1.30 **Film: Aces High** (1976) starring Malcolm McDowell, Christopher Plummer and Trevor Howard. Muddled airborne re-make of the R.C. Sheriff play (and 1930 film) *Johnny's Day*. Directed by Jack Gold (74215)
- 3.30 **Repeat the Whitehall**. Episode three of the drama serial set in the Whitehall during the 19th century (9457)
- 4.30 **Stage 1**. Music from *See Saw* and others (44876)
- 5.30 **ITN Morning News** (89895). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 8.00 **Channel 4 Daily** (831455)
- 8.25 **Schools** (9451901)
- 12.00 **Right to Reply**. Among the programmes discussed are *Priests of Passion* and the *Disappearing* report on an Aldi drug that seems to do more harm than good. Presented by Shena McDonald (46231)
- 12.30 **Business Daily**. Susannah Simons with the latest news from the world's money markets (80369)
- 1.00 **Seamus Street**. Entertaining early-learning series (58524)
- 2.00 **Film: Uncle Silas** (1947, b/w) starring Jean Simmons, Derrick de Marma and Derek Bond. Well-made period melodrama, based on the Sheridan Le Fanu novel, about a 17-year-old Victorian heiress who goes to live with her uncle and finds that she is the intended victim of a murder. Directed by Charles Frank (36558)
- 3.55 **Delphes**. Animation by Ian Andrew (889524)
- 4.00 **How Does Your Garden Grow?** The best in the enjoyable series in which Philip Wood and David Wilson explore Britain's unsung gardens in the company of their owners. This afternoon they visit Margaret and Louis Glynn's exotic plot in Ballymena, Co Antrim (1) (Teletext) (727)
- 4.30 **Countdown**. Another round of the words and numbers game, presented by Richard Whiteley (611)
- 5.00 **The Late Late Show**. Dublin's long-running music and chat show hosted by Gay Byrne (4123)
- 6.00 **The Cosby Show**. American domestic comedy starring Bill Cosby (1) (104)
- 6.30 **Tonight with Jonathan Ross**. The guests include the three Britons appearing on Thursday's *Q&A* *Winifred Show* about the world's saddest man (466)
- 7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Jon Snow and Zeinab Badawi. (Teletext) (Cee-fax) (351494)
- 7.50 **Comment** (51036)
- 8.00 **Brookside**. Topical soap set in a suburban Merseyside close. (Teletext) (s) (1272)
- 8.30 **Evening News**. Folky American comedy series that has revitalised the faltering career of Burt Reynolds. He plays a former professional footballer who returns to his home town with his wife and three children to take up a coaching post at the local high school. With Marilu Hanner (s) (4487)



Called to the bar: a British family face the Costa (9.00pm)

- 9.00 **Cost of Dreams: Paradise in the Sun**
9.00 **Cost of Dreams: Paradise in the Sun**. A lively two-part documentary looks at some of the thousands of Britons who have left the mother country for the sea and sun of the Costa del Sol. Mike and Betty Thompson moved to Spain from Southend six years ago. They own the *Seas Knees*, serving up roast beef and Yorkshire puddings and custard in temperatures well over 100 degrees. They work 16 hours a day and their marriage is at breaking point. So much for paradise. A retired couple who sold their house in Fleetwood to buy a small flat have yet to be disenchanted. With no gardening, little housework and plenty of friends, they feel like film stars. Malcolm Brickworth's film also follows a young family who have decided to leave the rain and cold of Yorkshire and sink all their savings in a bar. Next week's concluding part looks at the invasion from a Spanish perspective (5833)
- 10.00 **Thirtysomething**. American comedy series about the ups and downs of a group of friends in their mid-thirties. (Teletext) (441524)
- 10.55 **Global Images: When Memory Speaks**. The international documentary series continues with a film made in 1986 by Jeanine Meserve in Buenos Aires. Three groups of students spend on the theme of fear in an Argentina still under the rule of the military (343511)
- 12.30am **Tonight with Jonathan Ross**. Shown at 6.30 (s) (5484760)
- 12.50 **Film: Nocturne** (1980) starring Lisa Eichhorn and Helena McCarthy. Overlooked drama about a woman whose memories of her lonely childhood are recalled at her mother's funeral but is interrupted by the arrival of two runaway girl lovers who draw her into their emotionally-charged lifestyle. Directed by Jay Chamberlain (7181708). Ends at 1.55

SATellite

- SKY NEWS**
Via the Astra and Maripoco satellites. News on the hour. 8.00am News (140227) 9.30 Sky News Phone In (17291) 10.00 Devine (40338) 10.30 British News (40338) 11.00 Devine (40338) 11.30 Devine (40338) 12.00 Devine (40338) 12.30 Devine (40338) 1.00 Devine (40338) 1.30 Devine (40338) 2.00 Devine (40338) 2.30 Devine (40338) 3.00 Devine (40338) 3.30 Devine (40338) 4.00 Devine (40338) 4.30 Devine (40338) 5.00 Devine (40338) 5.30 Devine (40338) 6.00 Devine (40338) 6.30 Devine (40338) 7.00 Devine (40338) 7.30 Devine (40338) 8.00 Devine (40338) 8.30 Devine (40338) 9.00 Devine (40338) 9.30 Devine (40338) 10.00 Devine (40338) 10.30 Devine (40338) 11.00 Devine (40338) 11.30 Devine (40338) 12.00 Devine (40338) 12.30 Devine (40338) 1.00 Devine (40338) 1.30 Devine (40338) 2.00 Devine (40338) 2.30 Devine (40338) 3.00 Devine (40338) 3.30 Devine (40338) 4.00 Devine (40338) 4.30 Devine (40338) 5.00 Devine (40338) 5.30 Devine (40338) 6.00 Devine (40338) 6.30 Devine (40338) 7.00 Devine (40338) 7.30 Devine (40338) 8.00 Devine (40338) 8.30 Devine 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